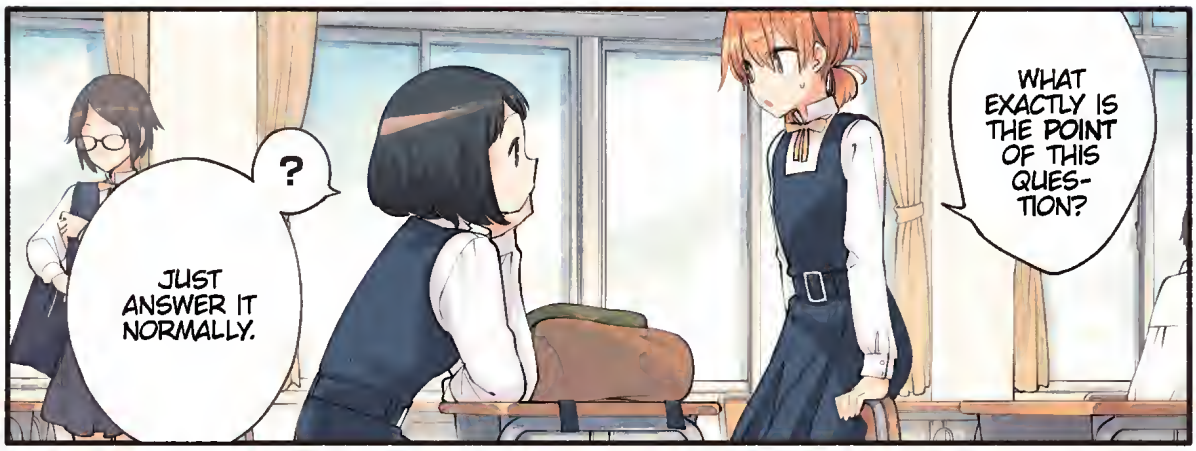
Bloom into You
story & art
NAKATANI NIO
3

WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS NANAMI-SENPAI?
THE REAL HER.

.....
UMM...

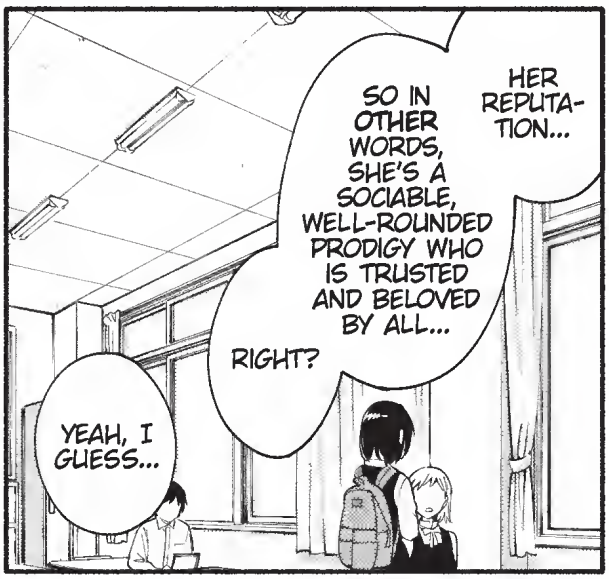

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE POINT OF THIS QUES-TION?
?
JUST ANSWER IT NORMALLY.

SO IF I'M GOING TO WRITE THE STUDENT COUNCIL PLAY, I FIGURED I SHOULD LOOK FOR A STARTING POINT.
I THOUGHT I'D TRY TO CONSIDER THE ACTORS' POINT OF VIEW.
YOU KNOW, RESEARCH FOR THEIR ROLES.
WOW, YOU'RE STARTING ALREADY? THANKS.

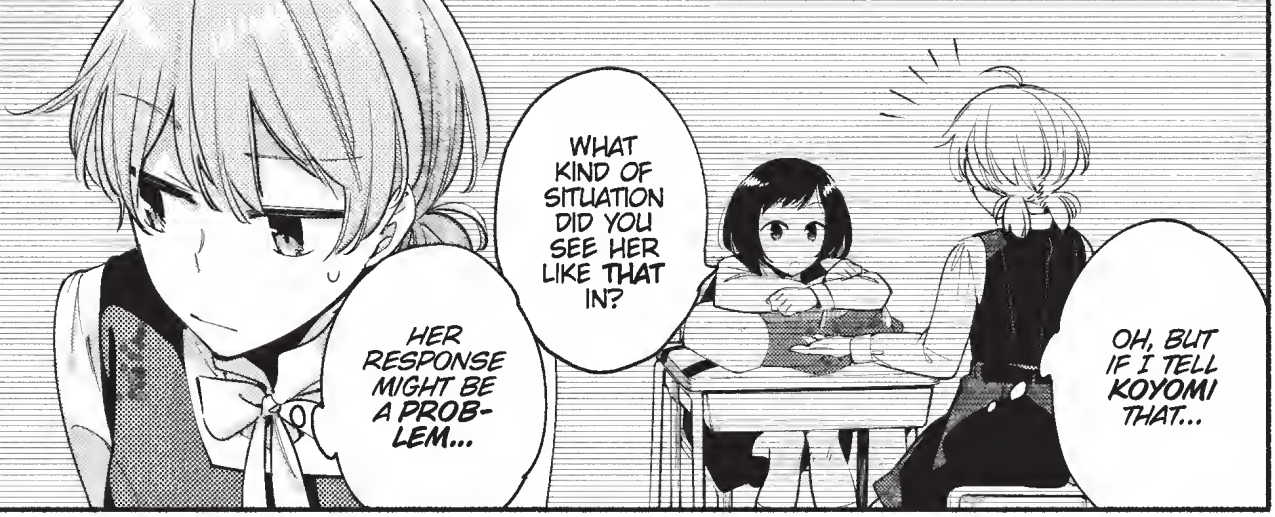
IT'S MY FIRST TIME WRITING FOR STAGE, YOU KNOW...

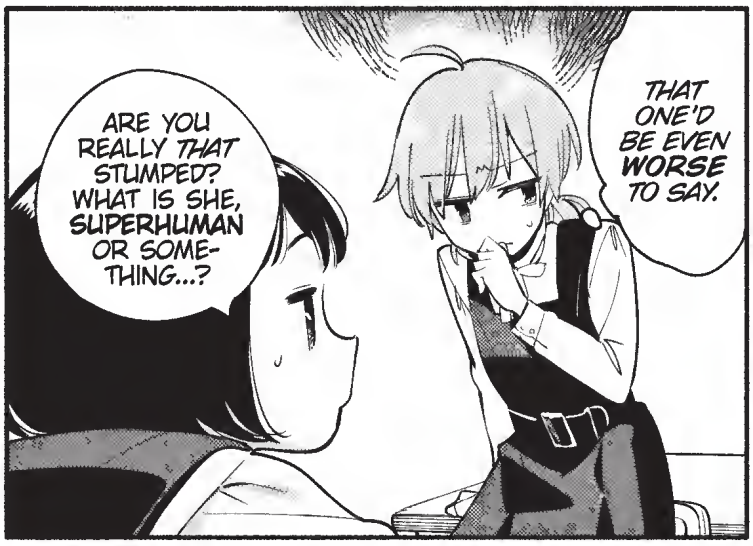
NANAMI-SENPAI... WELL...
I MEAN, SHE'S TRUE TO HER REPUTATION, REALLY.

NOT MUCH I CAN DO ABOUT THAT...
TOO PERFECT. IT'S BORING.

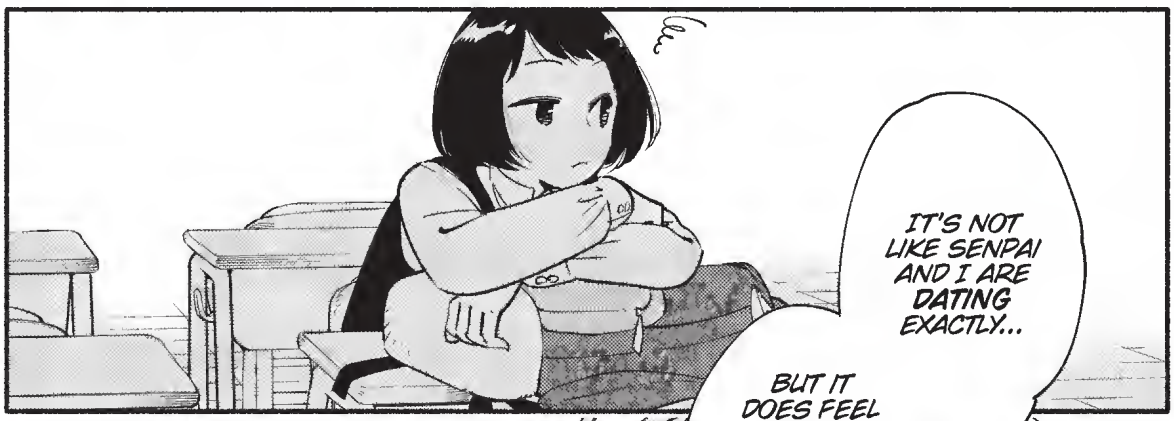

HER REPUTATION...
SO IN OTHER WORDS, SHE'S A SOCIABLE, WELL-ROUNDED PRODIGY WHO IS TRUSTED AND BELOVED BY ALL...
RIGHT?
YEAH, I GUESS...

A CHARACTER WITH FLAWS MAKES FOR A MUCH BETTER STORY...
YOU SURE SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY?
MMM...
THE TRUTH IS, SHE'S NOT PERFECT AT ALL.
BUT I CAN'T SAY THAT...
WELL, IF YOU CAN'T THINK OF ANY FLAWS PER SE...
HOW ABOUT WEAK-NESSES?
OR AN UNEXPECT-EDLY CUTE SIDE, MAYBE?
A CUTE SIDE?
HUNH.
THE WAY SHE GETS FLUSTERED AND BLUSHES REALLY EASILY...
MIGHT BE CUTE, I GUESS.


WHAT KIND OF SITUATION DID YOU SEE HER LIKE THAT IN?
HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE A PROB-LEM...
OH, BUT IF I TELL KOYOMI THAT...


ARE YOU REALLY THAT STUMPED? WHAT IS SHE, SUPERHUMAN OR SOME-THING...?
THAT ONE'D BE EVEN WORSE TO SAY.

WHAT ELSE...
THE WAY SHE SAYS "I LOVE YOU" SO FRANKLY?


IT'S NOT LIKE SENPAI AND I ARE DATING EXACTLY...
BUT IT DOES FEEL LIKE WE HAVE A LOT OF SECRETS.

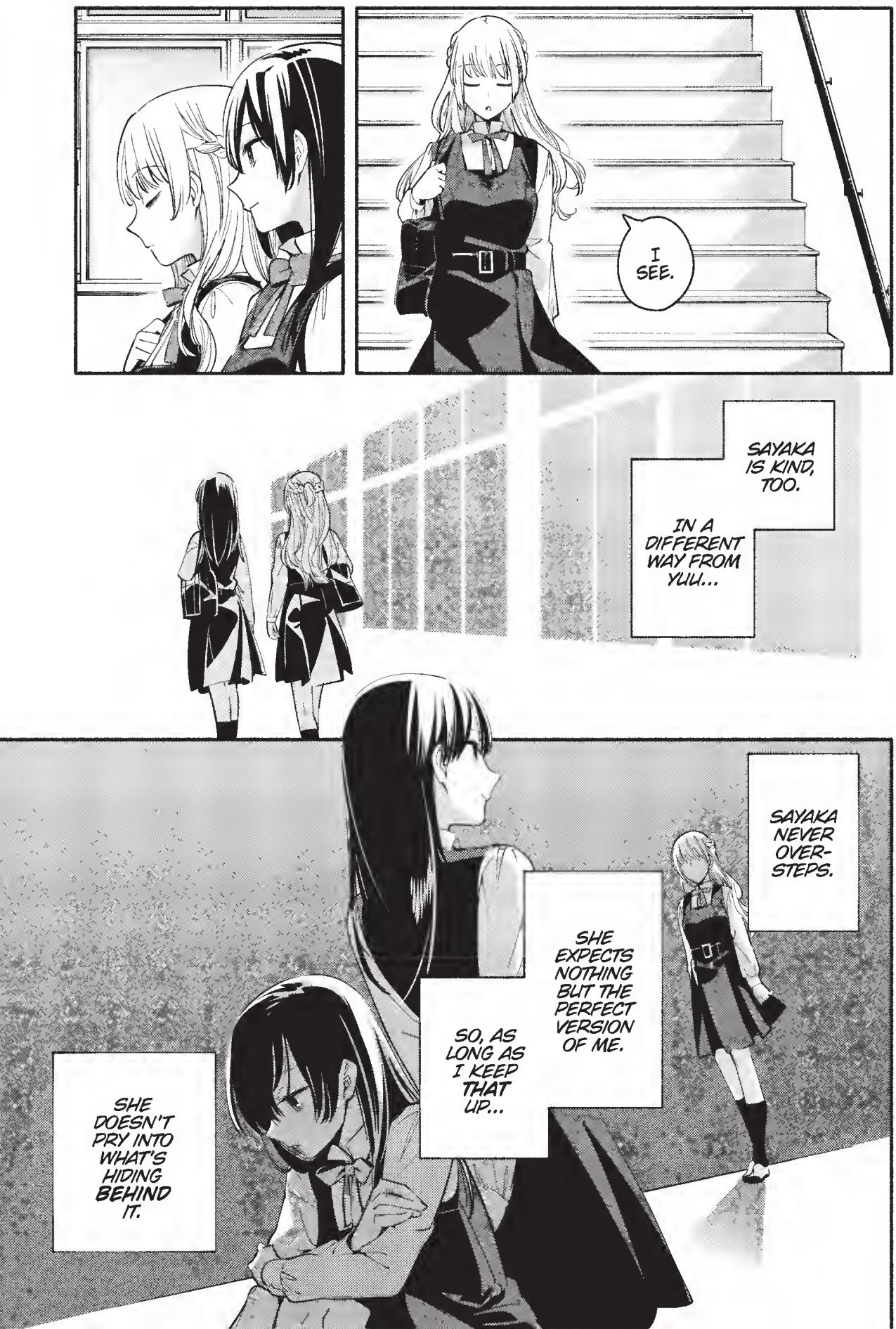
KOYO-MIII!

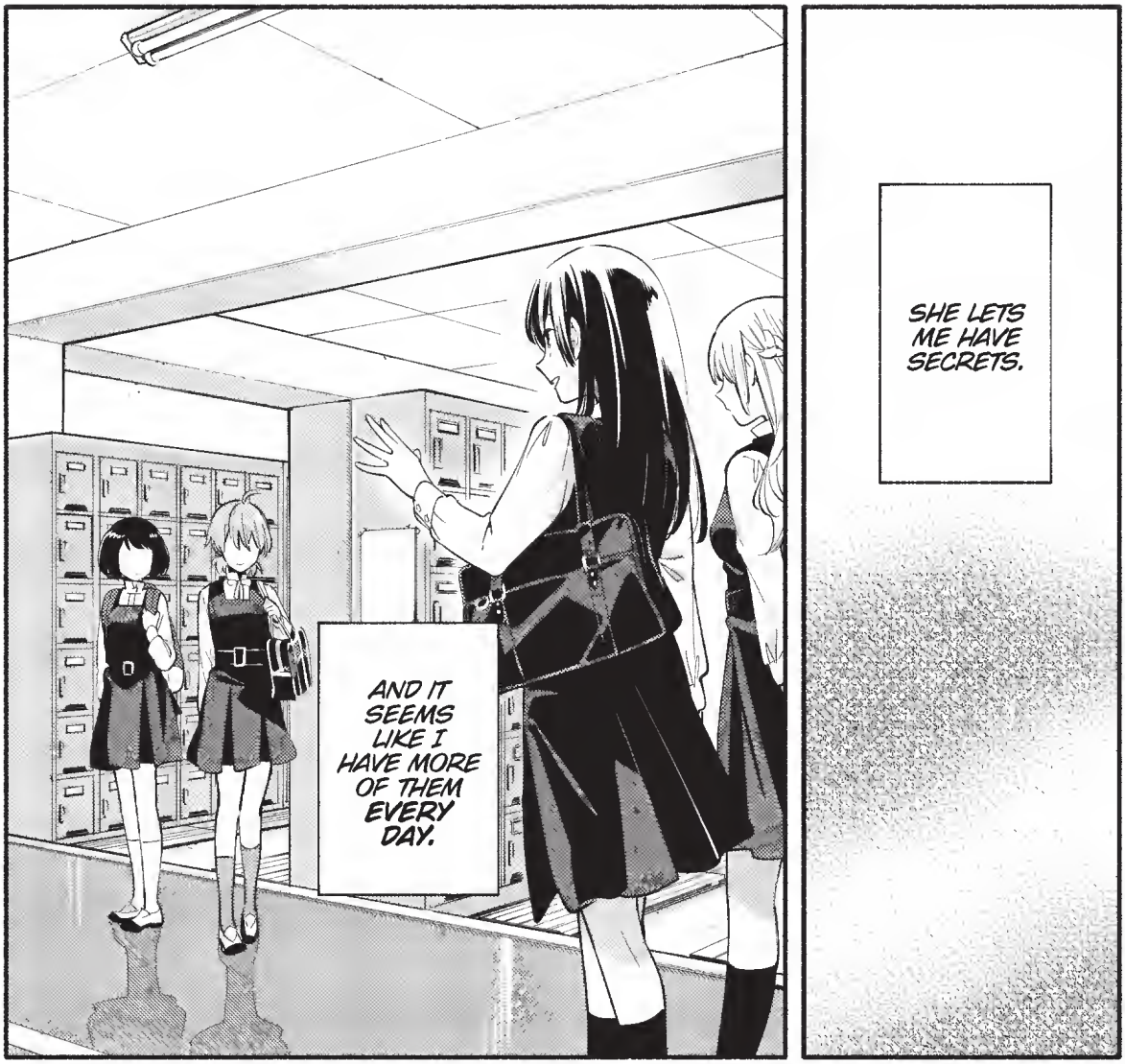
CALL ME HAKOZAKI-SENSEI, WOULD YOU?
BUT RIKO-SENSEI IS SO MUCH EASIER TO SAY!
EVERY-ONE DOES IT!
WELL DON'T.
Waah!
HELP MEEE!
WHAT'S GOING ON, AKARI?
RIKO-SENSEI SAYS THAT IF I DON'T RAISE MY AWFUL MODERN JAPANESE GRADE BY THE END OF THE TERM...
I'LL HAVE TO TAKE EXTRA CLASS-ES!
KOYOMI, ARE YOU FREE AFTER THIS?
IT'S NANAMI-SENPAI.
SHE WANTS TO KNOW IF WE CAN MEET WITH A FEW STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS.
PLEASE TUTOR ME, KOYOMI!
ISN'T DOING WELL IN MODERN JAPANESE JUST A MATTER OF LISTENING IN CLASS...?
DON'T BE MEAN!
YR22 YR22...

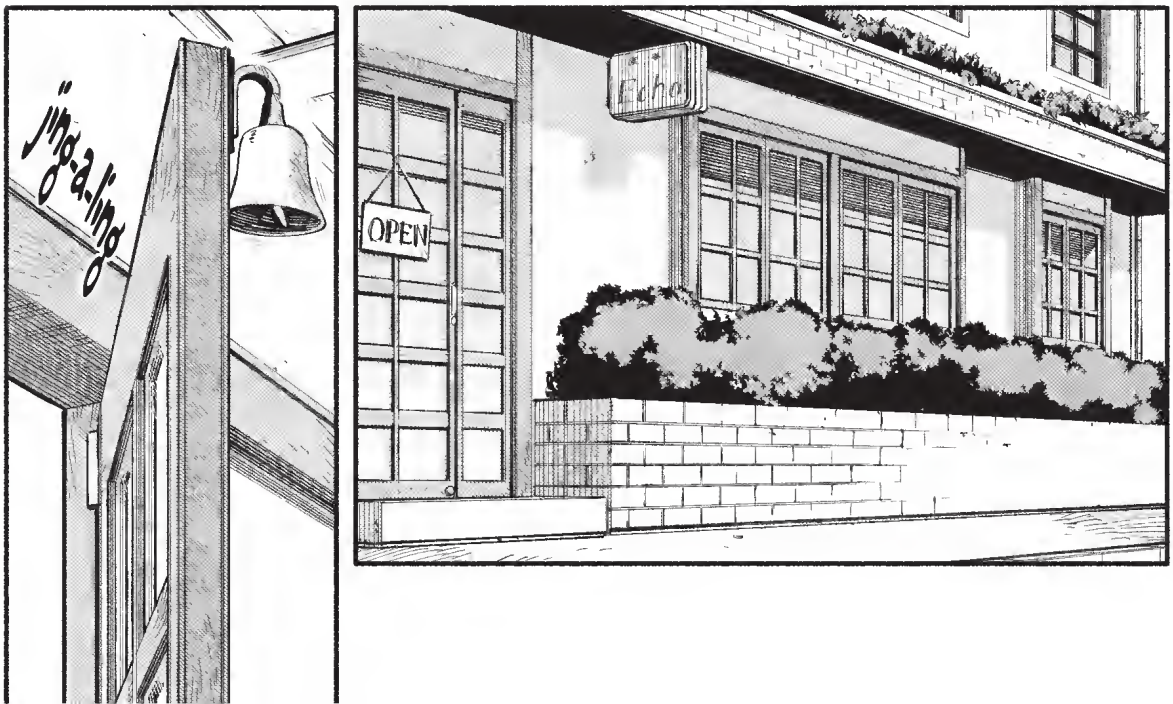
OK
KOITO-SAN'S CERTAINLY BECOME *COOPERATIVE*, HASN'T SHE?

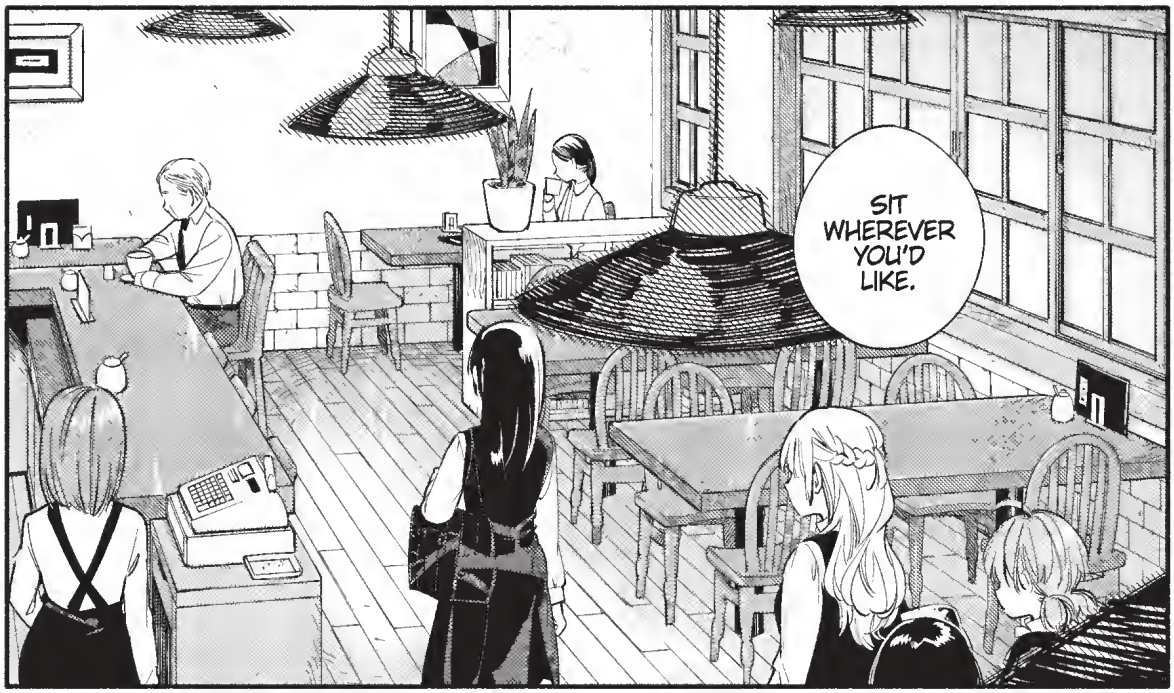
DEEP DOWN, SHE'S THE TYPE WHO CAN'T SAY **NO** IF YOU ASK FOR HELP.
SHE'S REALLY KIND.
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS SO AGAINST IT AT FIRST.
HMM.

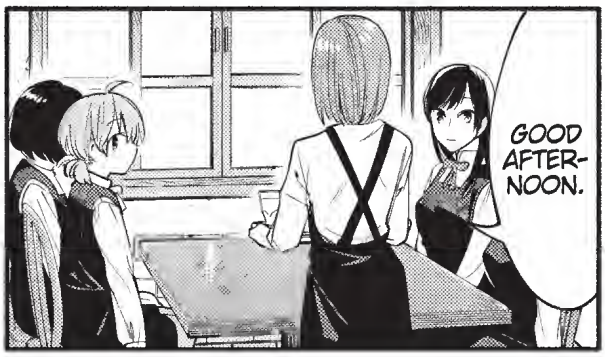
WHAT IS IT ABOUT HER THAT YOU LIKE SO MUCH?
AHA HA! WHY'S THAT?
I'M ALMOST GETTING A BIT JEALOUS.
YOU'VE BECOME AWFULLY CLOSE WITH HER.
HMM?
SHE IS THE ONLY FIRST-YEAR GIRL IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL.
WHY WOULDN'T I BE FRIENDLY WITH HER?


I SEE.
SAYAKA IS KIND, TOO.
IN A DIFFERENT WAY FROM YUU...
SAYAKA NEVER OVER-STEPS.
SHE EXPECTS NOTHING BUT THE PERFECT VERSION OF ME.
SO, AS LONG AS I KEEP THAT UP...
SHE DOESN'T PRY INTO WHAT'S HIDING BEHIND IT.


AND IT SEEMS LIKE I HAVE MORE OF THEM EVERY DAY.
SHE LETS ME HAVE SECRETS.


jing-a-ling
OPEN


SIT WHEREVER YOU'D LIKE.

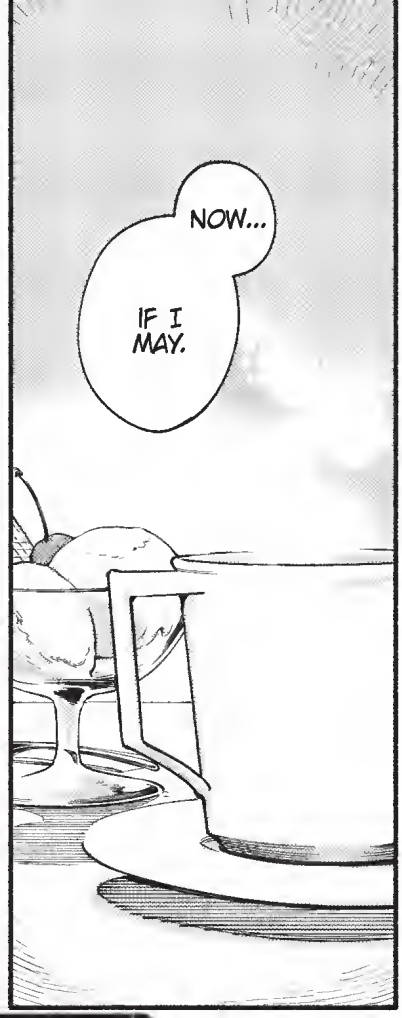

GOOD AFTER-NOON.

YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE, RIGHT?

I NEVER KNEW THIS PLACE WAS HERE.
IT'S NICE AND QUIET.

ONLY ONCE. I'M AMAZED YOU REMEMBER!
WELL, WE HARDLY EVER GET HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HERE...
AND I ALWAYS REMEMBER A CUTE GIRL'S FACE.
MS. MANAGER! CHECK, PLEASE!
JUST A MOMENT!
AH HA HA...
SO SHE'S THE MANAGER, HUH?
SHE'S SO YOUNG-- I FIGURED SHE WAS A WAITRESS.
RIGHT?

KANOU-SAN...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR AGREEING TO WRITE THE SCRIPT FOR THE PLAY.


NOW...
IF I MAY.

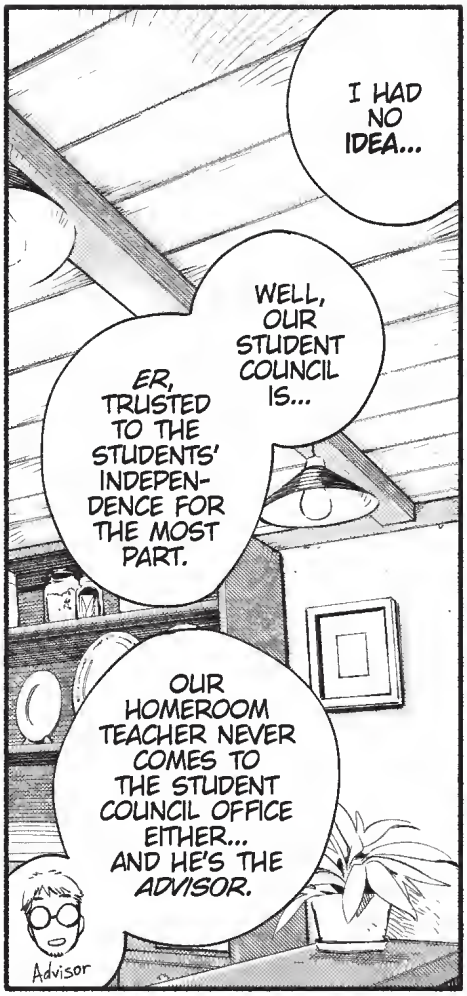
I READ THAT NOVEL OF YOURS-- IT WAS INCREDIBLY GOOD.
SO I'M THRILLED TO HAVE YOU ON BOARD.

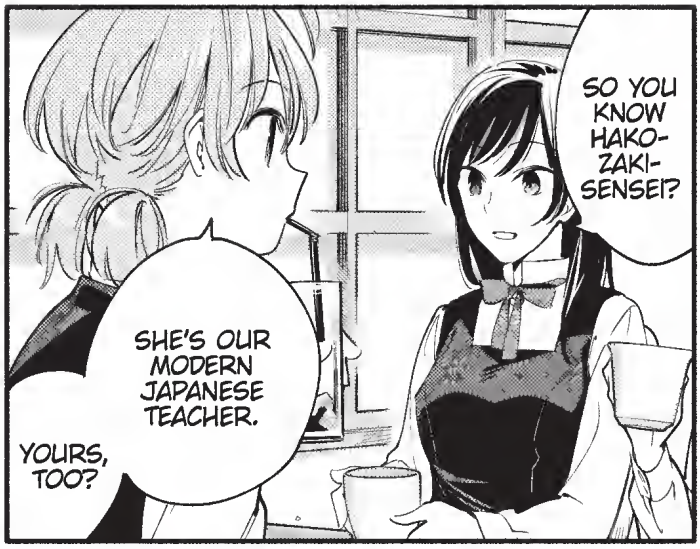
jing-a-ling
THANK YOU.

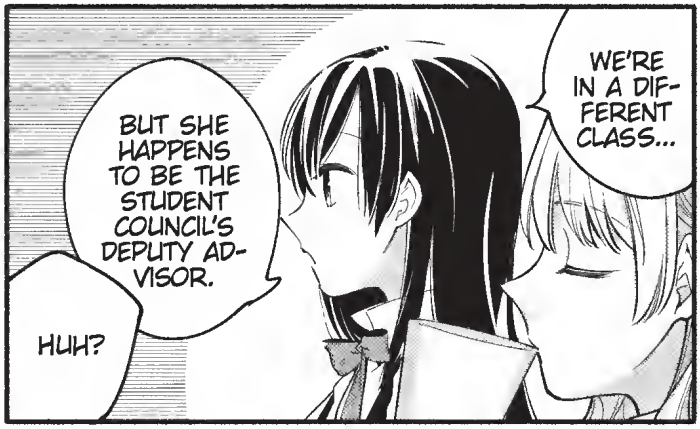
WELL, I WANTED SOME PRACTICE WRITING STORIES, SO...
I THOUGHT WORKING WITH OTHERS...
MIGHT BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO DO THAT.

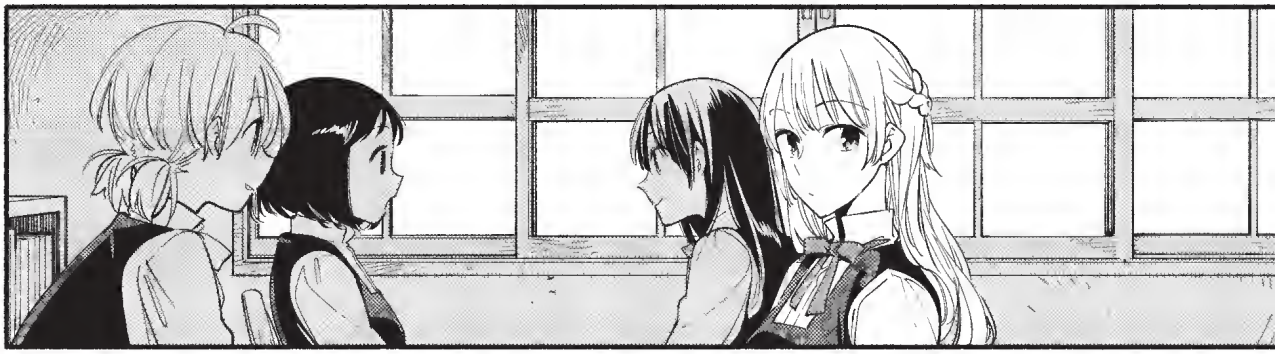
WEL-COME BACK.
YOU'RE OUT OF WORK EARLY TODAY.
YES, ONCE IN A WHILE I--
HAKO-ZAKI-SENSEI?
OH, SO IT IS.
GOOD AFTER-NOON.
HELLO THERE.
WE'RE HAVING A STUDENT COUNCIL PREP MEET-ING.
IT'S ABOUT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL PLAY.
WHAT ARE YOU GIRLS DOING IN A PLACE LIKE *THIS*?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "LIKE THIS"?
PLAY ...?
HRM.

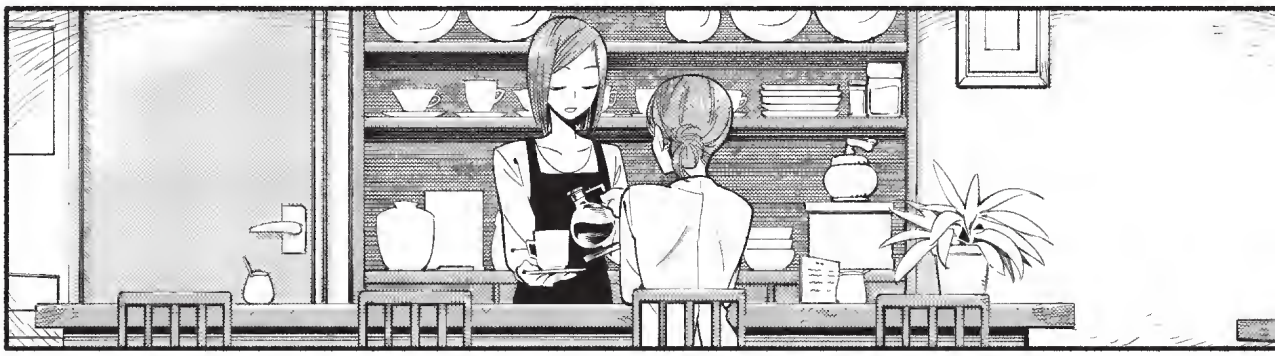
SENSEI, IS THE MANAGER A FRIEND OF YOURS?
I THOUGHT I HEARD HER SAY--
MIYAKO-- THAT IS, THE MANAGER-- AND I HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE COLLEGE.
AH, WELL...
I COME HERE OFTEN ENOUGH, SO SHE TENDS TO GREET ME THAT WAY.
OHH.
YOU'RE ALLOWED TO DAWDLE ON THE WAY HOME AND ALL...
BUT BE SURE YOU DON'T GET HOME TOO LATE.
YES, MA'AM.


I HAD NO IDEA...
WELL, OUR STUDENT COUNCIL IS...
ER, TRUSTED TO THE STUDENTS' INDEPENDENCE FOR THE MOST PART.
OUR HOMEROOM TEACHER NEVER COMES TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICE EITHER... AND HE'S THE ADVISOR.
Advisor


SO YOU KNOW HAKO-ZAKI-SENSEI?
SHE'S OUR MODERN JAPANESE TEACHER.
YOURS, TOO?


WE'RE IN A DIFFERENT CLASS...
BUT SHE HAPPENS TO BE THE STUDENT COUNCIL'S DEPUTY ADVISOR.
HUH?



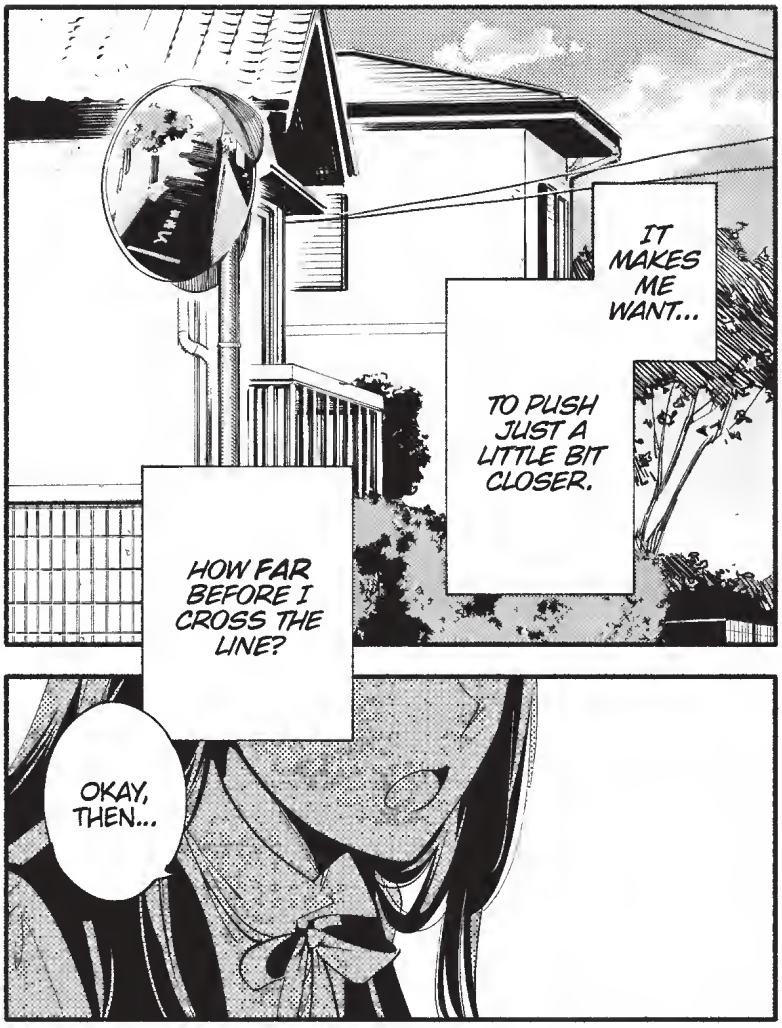


STORE
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
AHH!
NO...
IT'S JUST THAT EARLIER KOYOMI ASKED ME WHAT SORT OF PERSON YOU ARE...
AND I WASN'T QUITE SURE HOW TO ANSWER HER.

YOU AND KANOU-SAN SEEM CLOSE.
I WAS STUCK.
YEAH, A PROB-LEM FOR SURE!
YES, I SEE THE PROB-LEM.
THAT'S, AH...
YUU.
KOYOMI AND I HAVE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL.
SHE LOVES BOOKS, TOO. SO SHE COMES TO OUR STORE A LOT.
ALTHOUGH, I ONLY FOUND OUT THAT SHE'S A WRITER HERSELF PRETTY RECENTLY...

I'M PRETTY SURE YOU ALREADY DO-- ALL THE TIME!
NO, NOT LIKE THAT...
I MEAN... NORMALLY. EVEN IN FRONT OF EVERYONE ELSE.
?
IS...
IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I CALL YOU THAT, TOO?
WELL, THERE'S NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT...
A SENPAI CALLING A KOUHAI BY HER NAME, RIGHT?
TH...
THEN...
YUU.
YES?
THAT FACE...

THAT FACE THAT SAYS, "THIS DOESN'T BOTHER ME AT ALL"...


IT MAKES ME WANT...
TO PUSH JUST A LITTLE BIT CLOSER.
HOW FAR BEFORE I CROSS THE LINE?
OKAY, THEN...

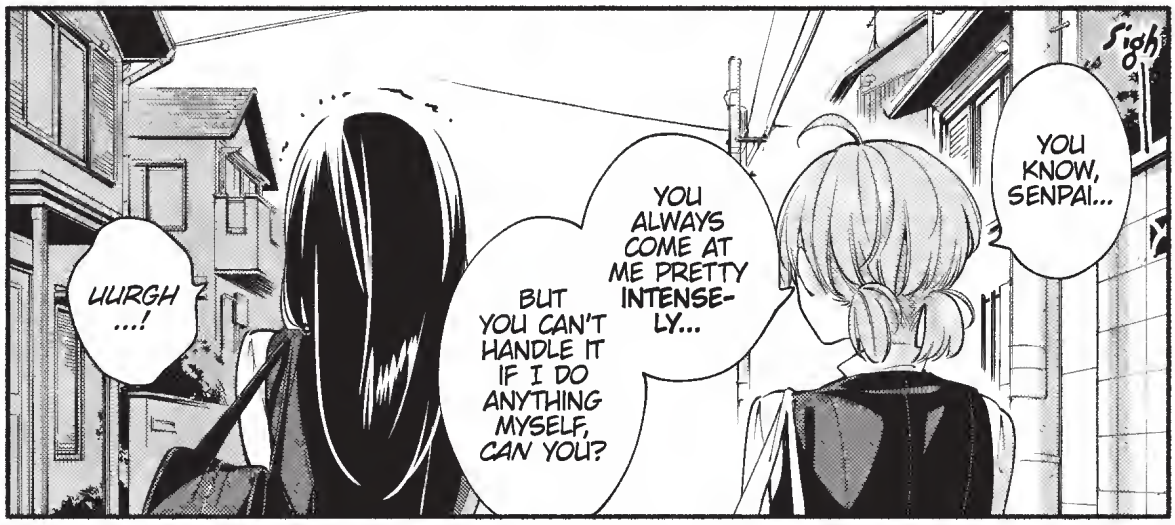
WHY DON'T YOU TRY...
CALLING ME BY MY FIRST NAME, TOO?

WHAT ?!

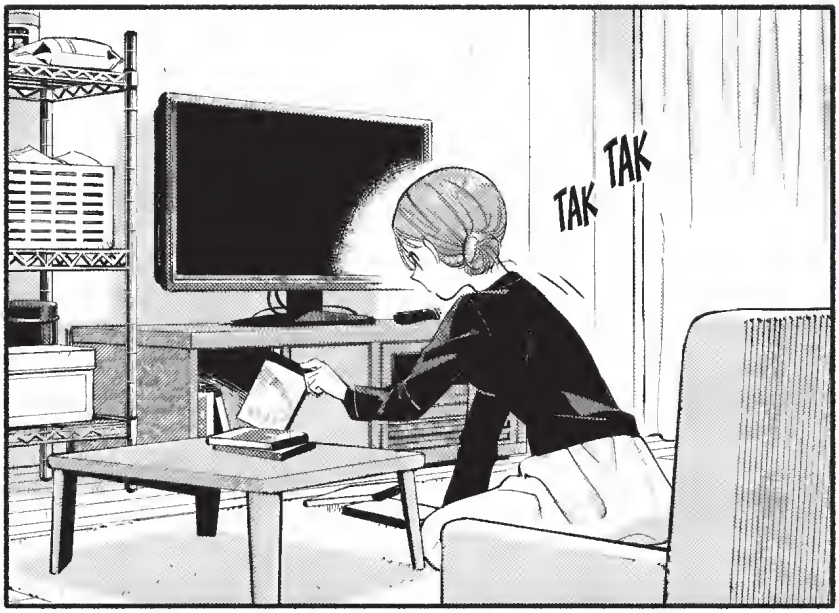
AH, SORRY...
I KNEW THAT W--
TOUKO-SENPAI.

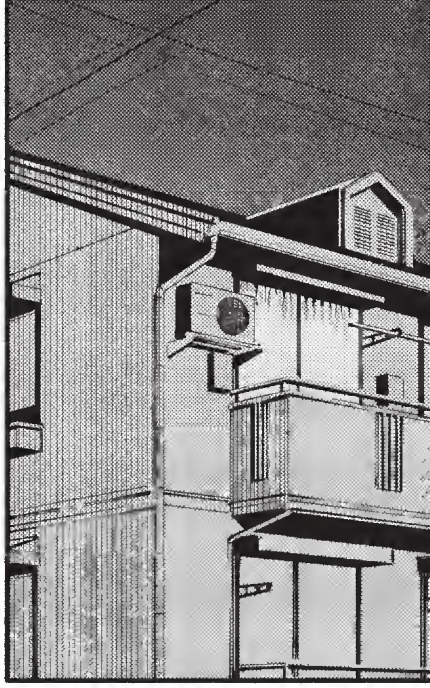
TOUKO-SENPAI?
W...
WAAAH ...!
frizzle frazzle
.....
IF YOU'RE GONNA REACT LIKE THAT EVERY SINGLE TIME...
I GUESS I CAN'T SAY IT IN FRONT OF PEOPLE.
SHE'S THE ONE WHO ASKED ME TO DO IT...
sigh
I--!
I CAN BE NORMAL ABOUT IT!

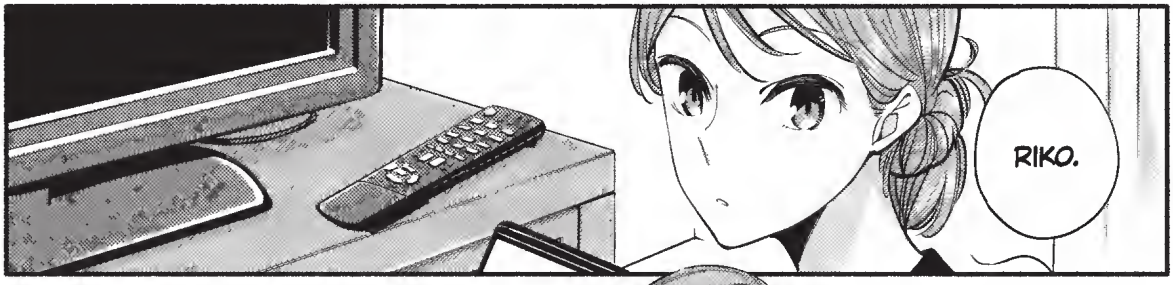
TOUKO-SENPAI.
YEP.
TOOOUKO-SENPAI...
YES...?


Sigh
YOU KNOW, SENPAI...
YOU ALWAYS COME AT ME PRETTY INTENSE-LY...
BUT YOU CAN'T HANDLE IT IF I DO ANYTHING MYSELF, CAN YOU?
UURGH ...!

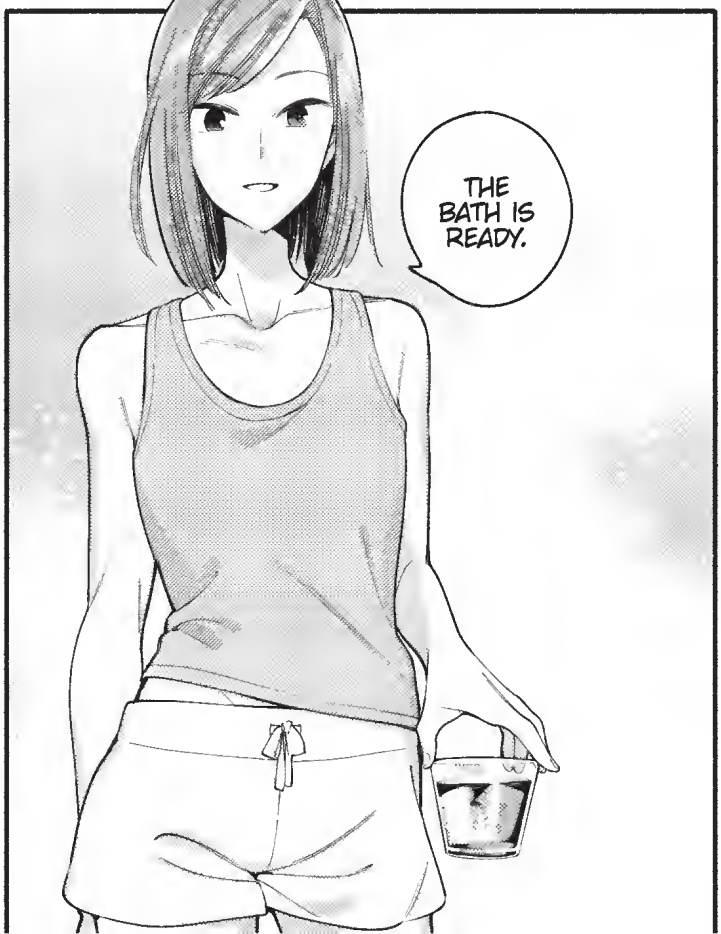
BUT THAT'S JUST ANOTHER THING I CAN'T TELL KOYOMI.
THIS SIDE OF SENPAI... CAN BE CUTE...
MAYBE.
YUU, YOU BULLY.
I'LL KEEP IT A SECRET FROM SENPAI, TOO.


TAK TAK

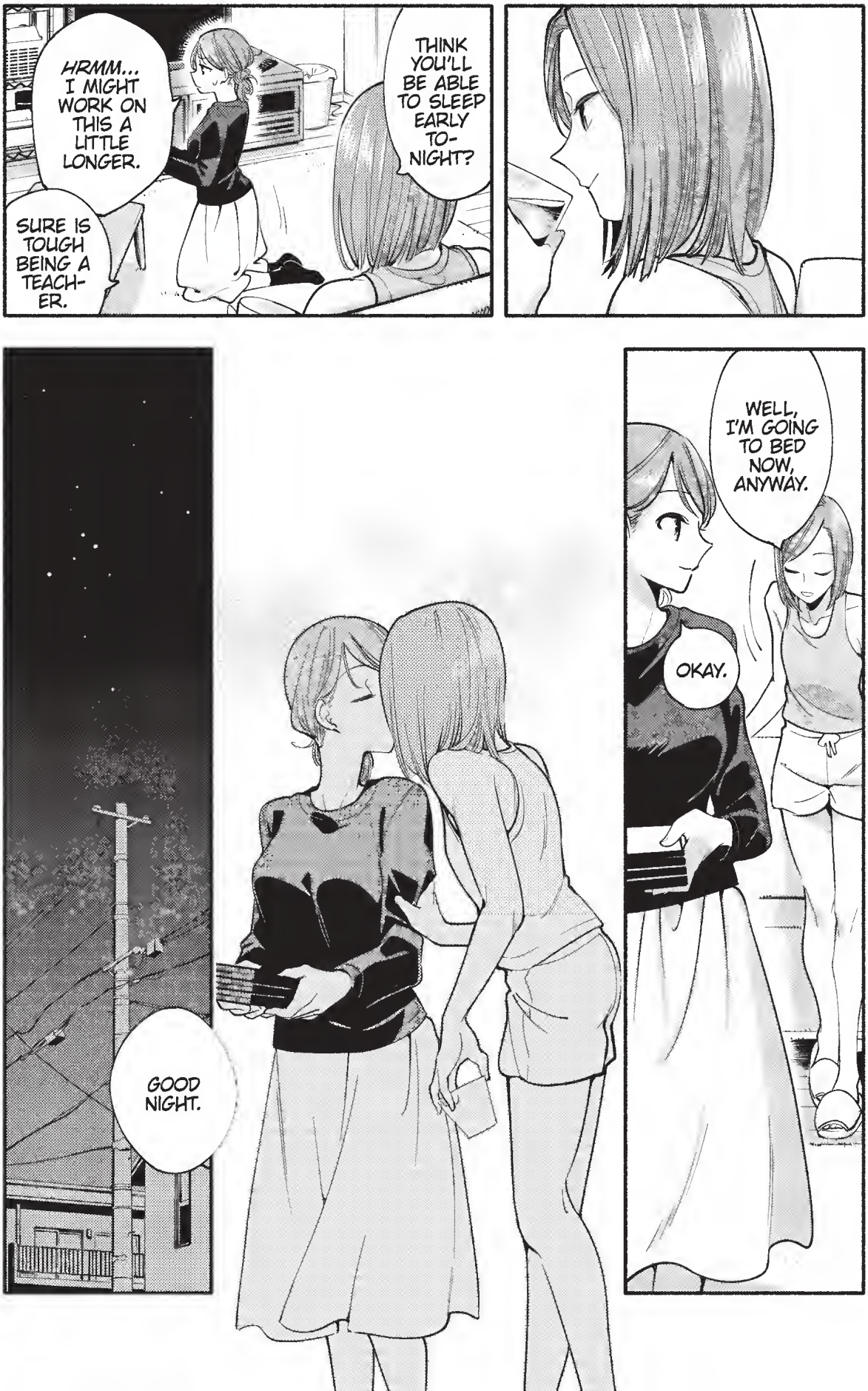



RIKO.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
SURE.


THE BATH IS READY.

YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING BACK THERE, SO I ASSUMED YOU WOULDN'T...
EVEN THOUGH YOU TAUGHT THEATER AT YOUR LAST SCHOOL.
SO YOU ARE GONNA HELP THEM?
I THOUGHT I'D LEND THOSE GIRLS A FEW. DVDs.
GLARE
WELL, MIYAKO, SINCE YOU BLURTED OUT "WELCOME BACK" LIKE THAT...!
I LEFT BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT THEM TO ASK ME ANYTHING ELSE.
HOW WOULD I EXPLAIN THAT WE LIVE TOGETHER?
SORRY, SORRY.
HAVING A SHORT COMMUTE TO THE SCHOOL IS NICE AND ALL, BUT IT BRINGS UP ISSUES LIKE THIS...
Sigh...


HRMM... I MIGHT WORK ON THIS A LITTLE LONGER.
SURE IS TOUGH BEING A TEACH-ER.
THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SLEEP EARLY TO-NIGHT?
WELL, I'M GOING TO BED NOW, ANYWAY.
OKAY.
GOOD NIGHT.

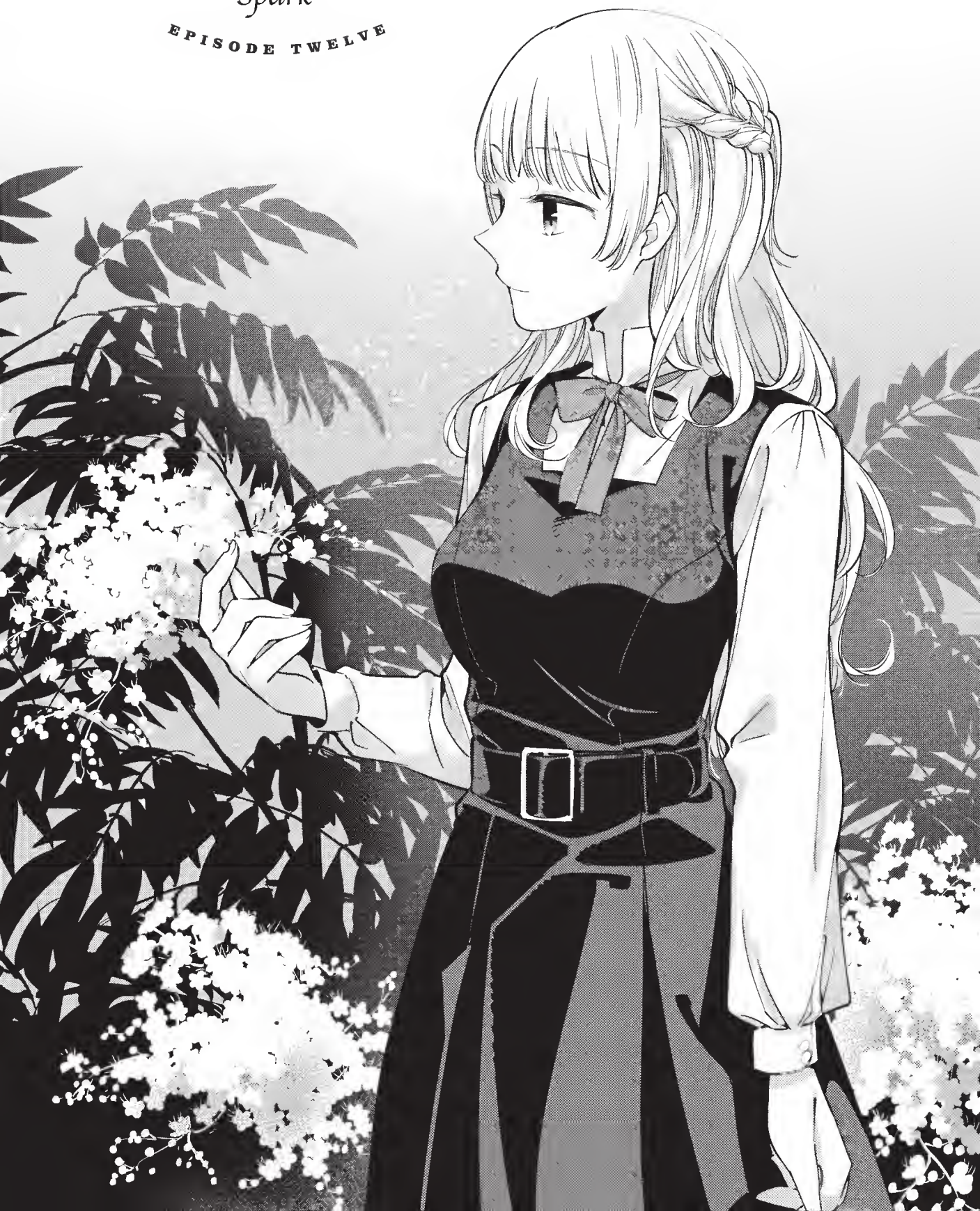
...
A MIS-
MATCHED
COUPLE.
AMPLE

Bloom Into You

12

Spark

EPISODE TWELVE



I'LL BE GIVING TODAY'S QUIZZES BACK ON MONDAY, ALL RIGHT?
HEY, IS IT JUST ME, OR DO THESE QUIZZES KEEP GETTIN' HARDER?
I WONDER IF, SOMEDAY, THEY'LL TEAR ME APART.
IF ALL OF THE WORDS I HAVEN'T SAID KEEP PILING UP LIKE THIS...
HMPH!
YEAH, WELL, DON'T DRAG THE REST OF US INTO IT...
I HAVE TO BREAK NANAMI AND SAEKI'S PERFECT STREAK! THIS TIME FOR SURE!
GOOD LUCK, SAYAKA!
BEAT TOUKO FOR US ONCE IN A WHILE, WOULD YA?
OH, I COULD NEVER.

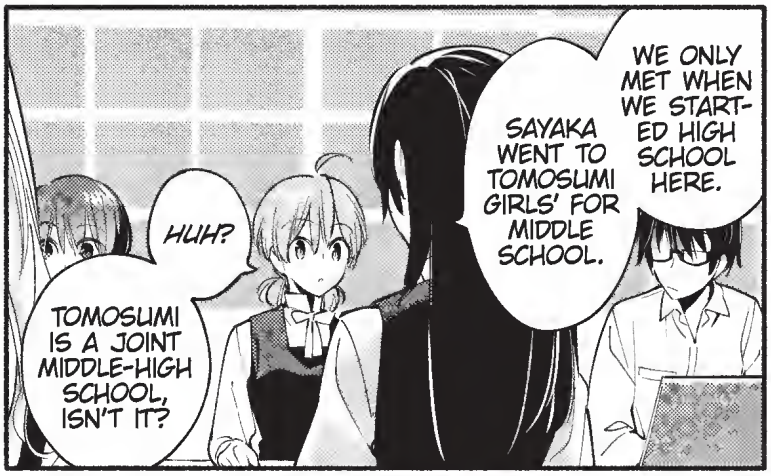
I'M SIMPLY NO MATCH FOR TOUKO, YOU SEE.
OH, COME ON. THAT'S NOT TRUE.
WHA-AAT?
DOESN'T IT BUG YOU COMING IN SECOND ALL THE TIME?
NOT AT ALL.
I HAVE A PRETTY HARD TIME KEEPING AHEAD OF YOU, YOU KNOW.

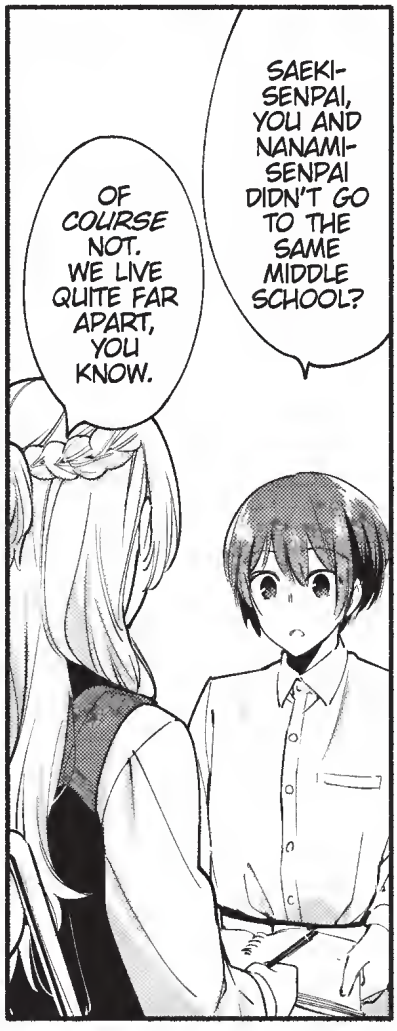
UMM... I THINK IT'S THIS FILE HERE.
YUU... WHERE'S THAT LIST OF PHYS ED COMMITTEE MEMBERS?
WAIT, HUH?
HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN ON FIRST-NAME TERMS WITH KOITO-SAN, NANAMI-SENPAI?
NICELY DONE, DOUJIMA-KUN!
HUH?
"YUU"?
DID SHE JUST CALL HER BY HER FIRST NAME?
THANKS.

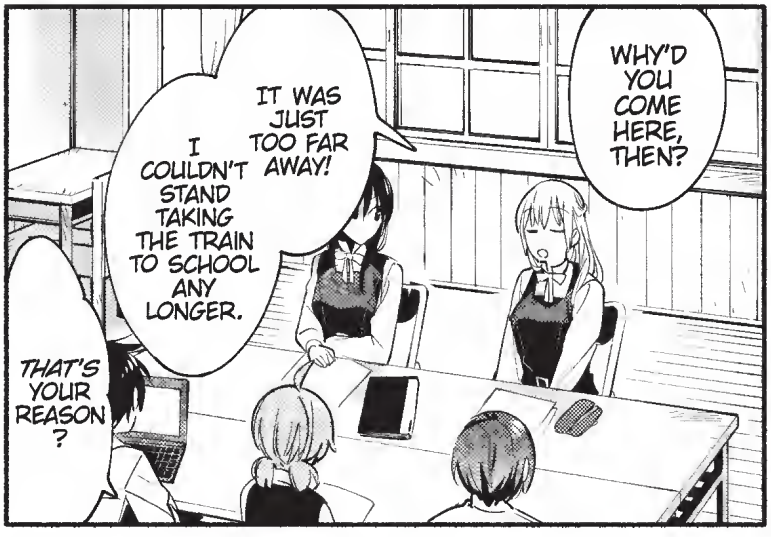
WELL, MY FIRST NAME IS SUGURU, THEN!
WHAT WAS THAT, DOUJIMA-KUN?
YOU'RE SO CRUEL!
I THOUGHT IT COULDN'T HURT TO BE A BIT FRIENDLIER, RIGHT?
PERHAPS I SHOULD CALL KOITO-SAN BY HER FIRST NAME AS WELL.
.....
WELL, IN THAT CASE...
.....
SURE.
IF YOU WANT.

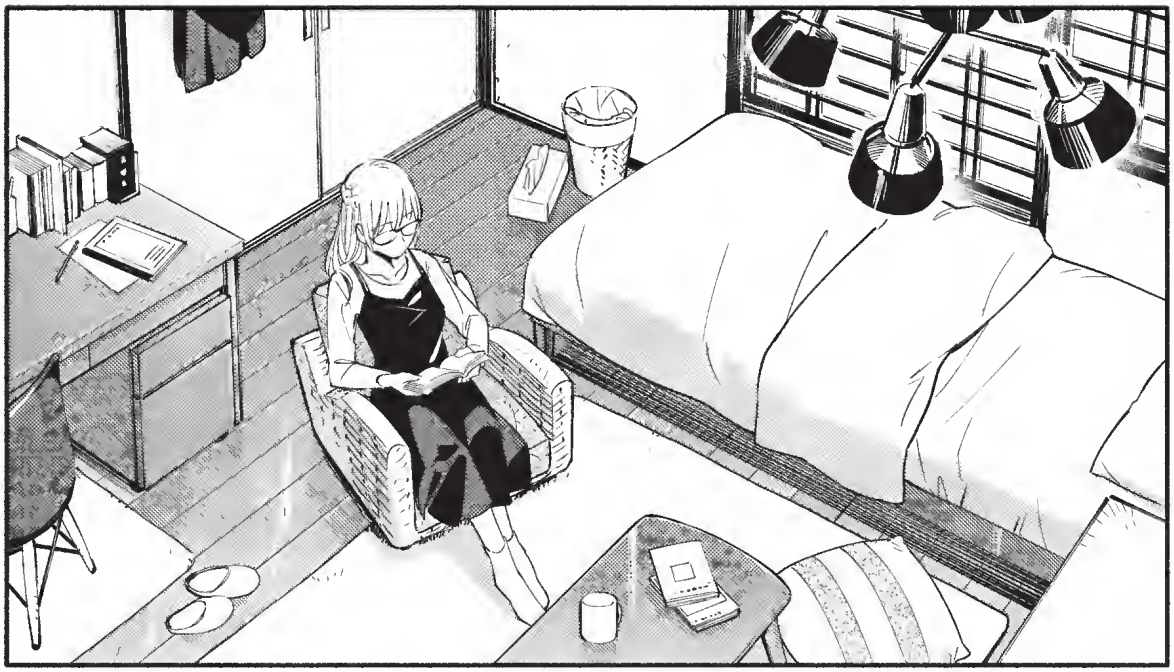
THAT'S A RICH-GIRL SCHOOL FOR YOU.
AND WHAT HAS *THAT* GOT TO DO WITH IT, PRAY TELL?
HMM?

I NEVER CALLED KOUHAI BY THEIR FIRST NAMES IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, SO...
IT JUST FEELS *WRONG*.
NO... ON SECOND THOUGHT, I'D PREFER NOT.
SIGH...


WE ONLY MET WHEN WE START-ED HIGH SCHOOL HERE.
SAYAKA WENT TO TOMOSUMI GIRLS' FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL.
HUH?
TOMOSUMI IS A JOINT MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL, ISN'T IT?


SAEKI-SENPAI, YOU AND NANAMI-SENPAI DIDN'T GO TO THE SAME MIDDLE SCHOOL?
OF *COURSE* NOT. WE LIVE QUITE FAR APART, YOU KNOW.

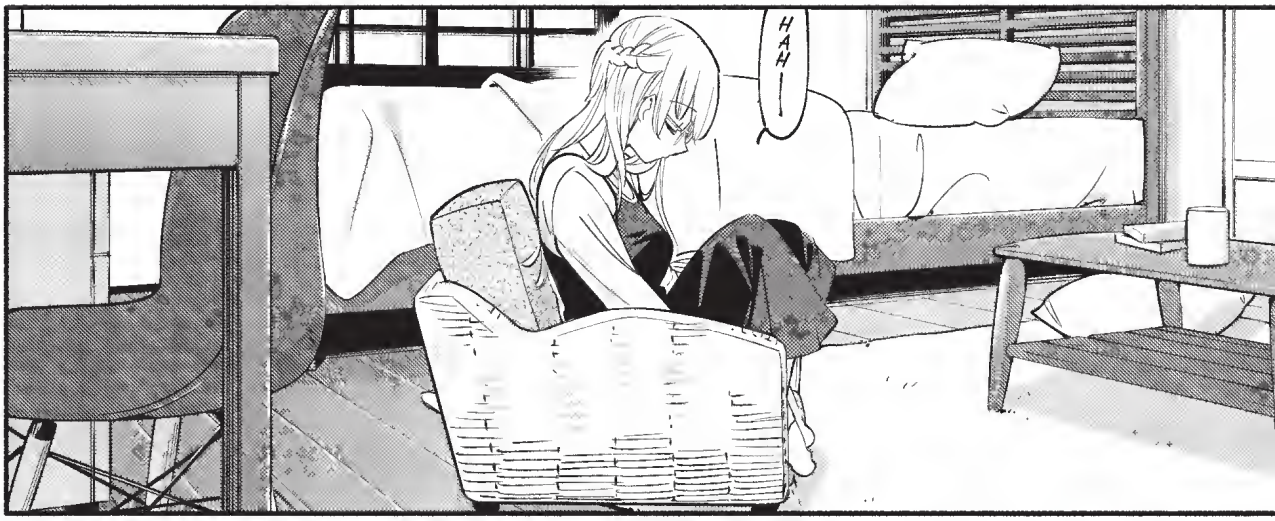

WHY'D YOU COME HERE, THEN?
IT WAS JUST TOO FAR AWAY! I COULDN'T STAND TAKING THE TRAIN TO SCHOOL ANY LONGER.
THAT'S YOUR REASON?

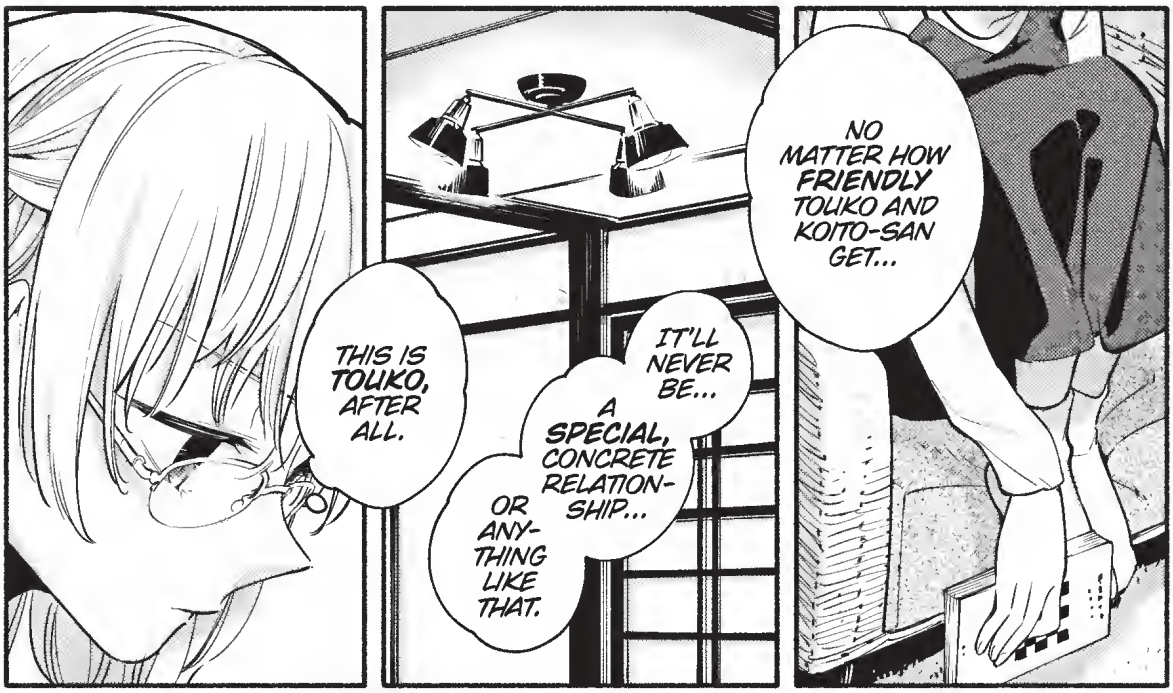


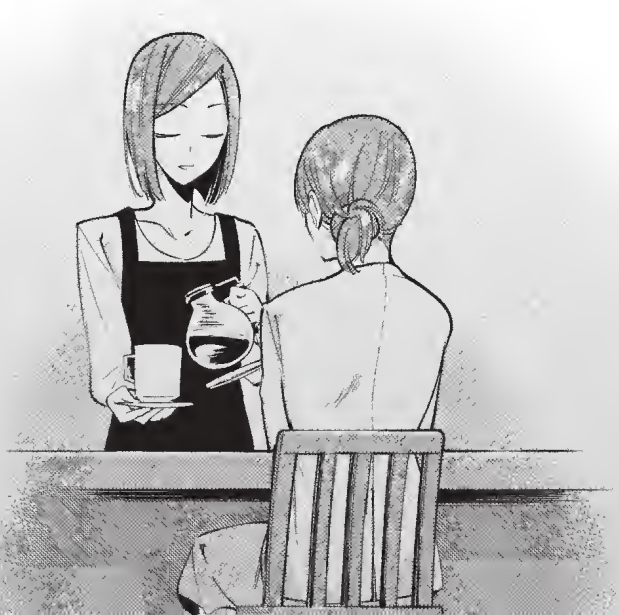
IT'S ALMOST AS IF...

I'VE NEVER SEEN TOUKO GET SO CLOSE TO SOMEONE BEFORE.

WHY KOITO-SAN, OF ALL PEOPLE ...?

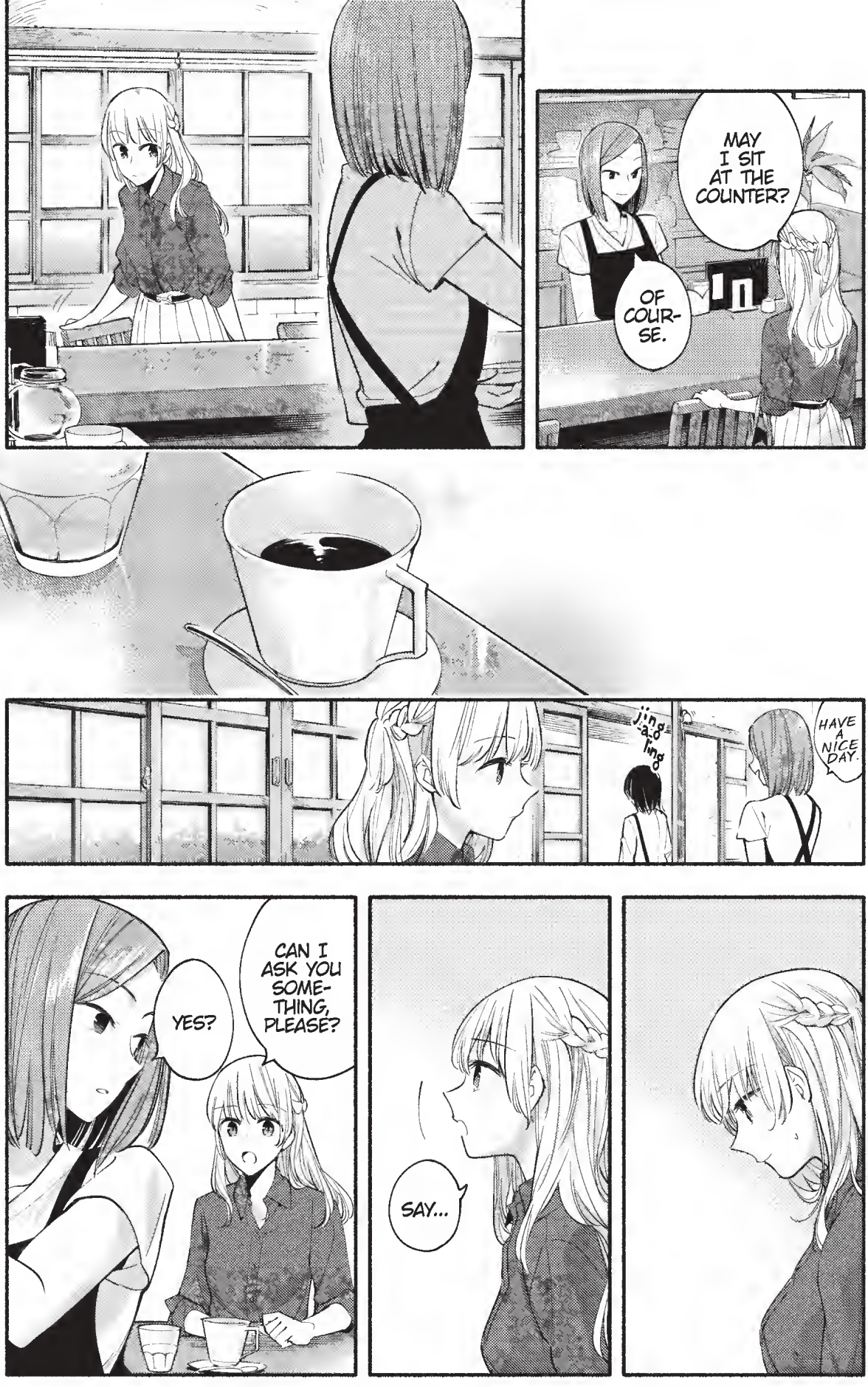

HAH...

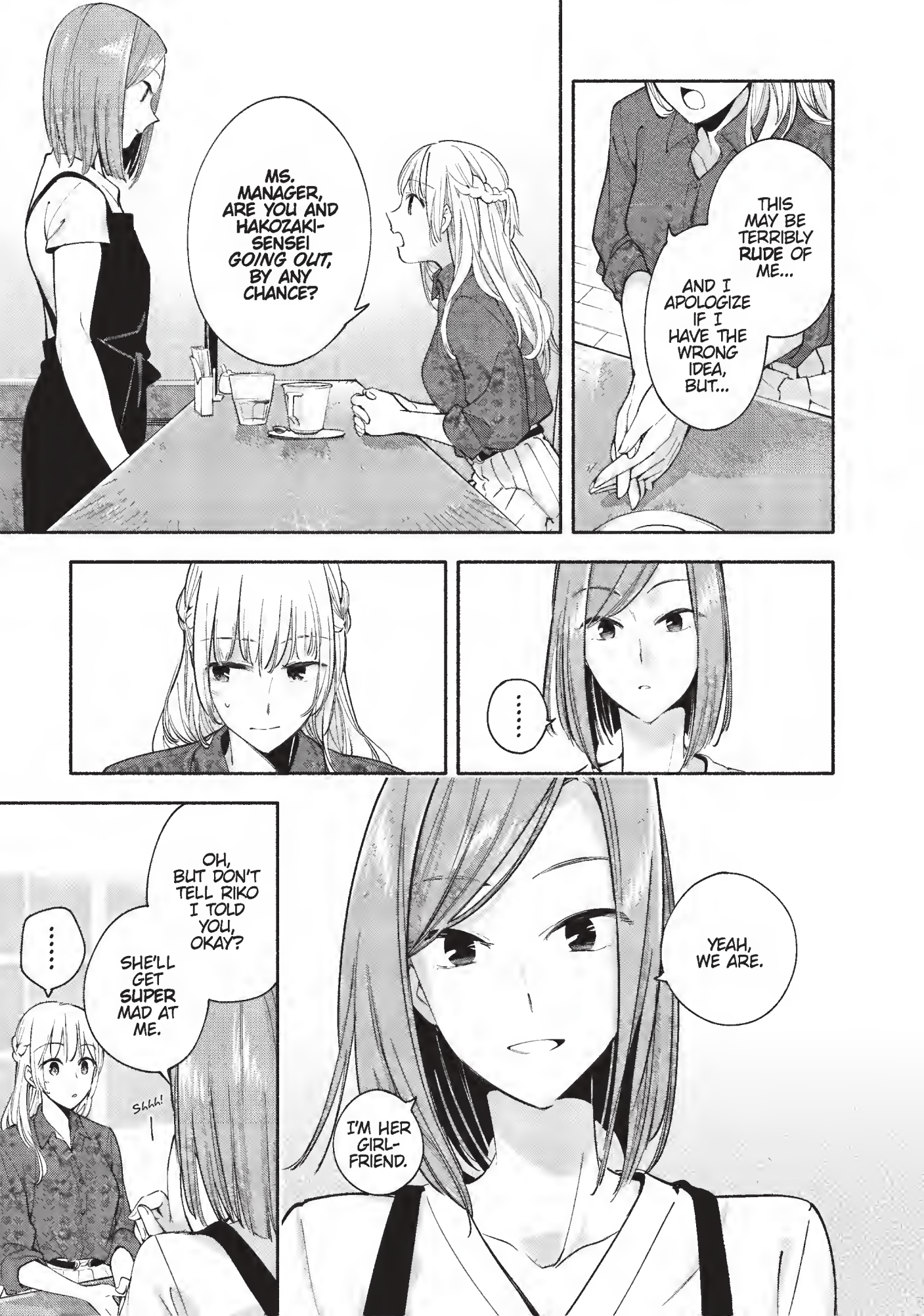

NO MATTER HOW FRIENDLY TOUKO AND KOITO-SAN GET...
IT'LL NEVER BE...
A SPECIAL, CONCRETE RELATION-SHIP...
OR ANY-THING LIKE THAT.
THIS IS TOUKO, AFTER ALL.

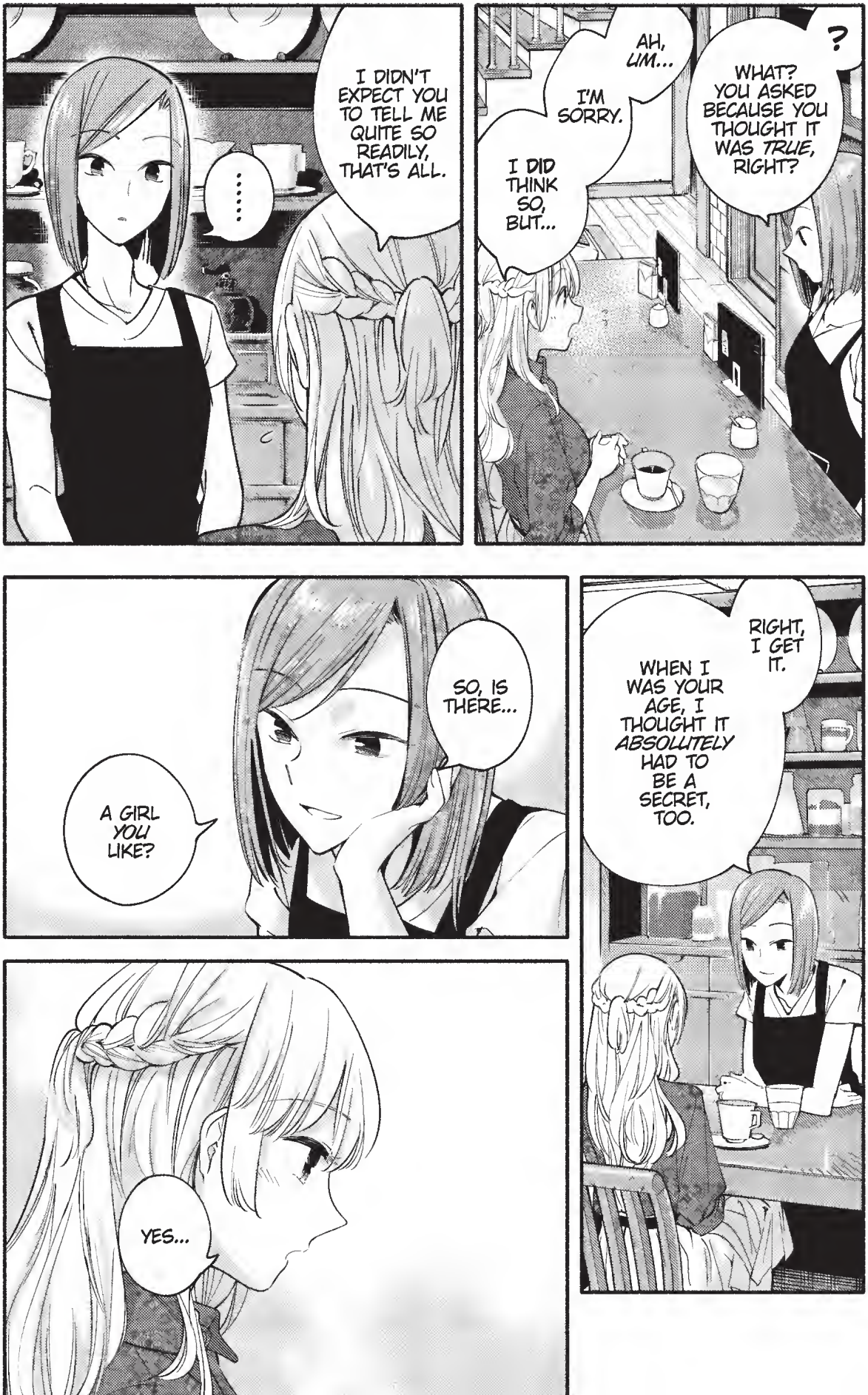


A CONCRETE RELATION-SHIP...
HMM...

OPEN
.....
JING-A-LING
GOOD AFTER-NOON.
OH? HELLO THERE.


MAY I SIT AT THE COUNTER?
OF COUR-SE.
jing-a-ling
HAVE A NICE DAY.
CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING, PLEASE?
YES?
SAY...

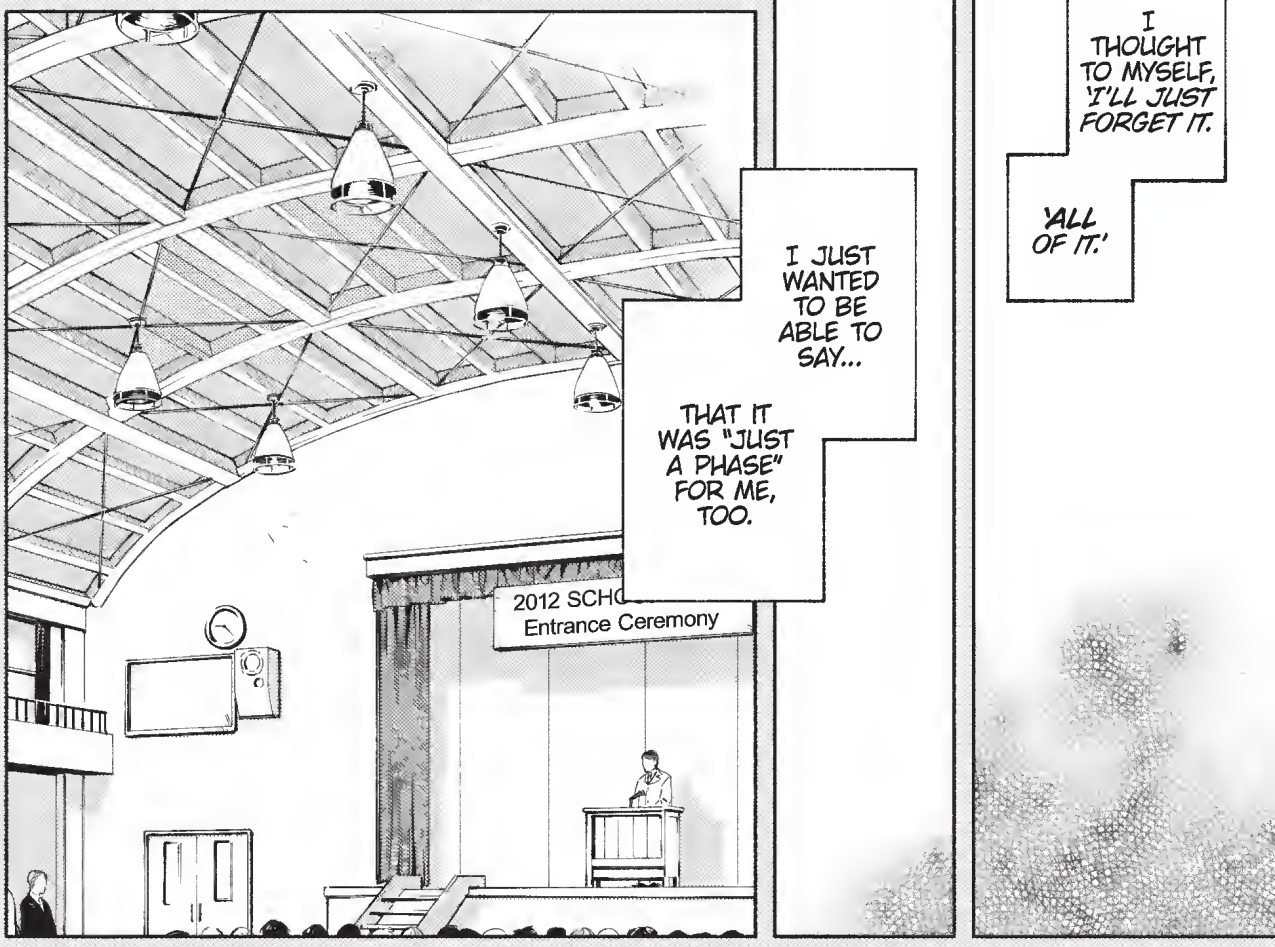

MS. MANAGER, ARE YOU AND HAKOZAKI-SENSEI GOING OUT, BY ANY CHANCE?
THIS MAY BE TERRIBLY RUDE OF ME...
AND I APOLOGIZE IF I HAVE THE WRONG IDEA, BUT...
.....
OH, BUT DON'T TELL RIKO I TOLD YOU, OKAY?
SHE'LL GET SUPER MAD AT ME.
.....
Shhh!
I'M HER GIRL-FRIEND.
YEAH, WE ARE.


I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO TELL ME QUITE SO READILY, THAT'S ALL.
.....
AH, UM...
I'M SORRY.
I DID THINK SO, BUT...
WHAT? YOU ASKED BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT IT WAS TRUE, RIGHT?
?
SO, IS THERE...
A GIRL YOU LIKE?
RIGHT, I GET IT.
WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I THOUGHT IT ABSOLUTELY HAD TO BE A SECRET, TOO.
YES...

THIS WAS LONG BEFORE I MET *THAT* GIRL.
SENPAI?
WHAT IS IT...?
SAYAKA-CHAN...
LISTEN...
I REALLY LIKE YOU.
AT FIRST, I *DID* THINK IT WAS STRANGE.
WE WERE BOTH GIRLS...

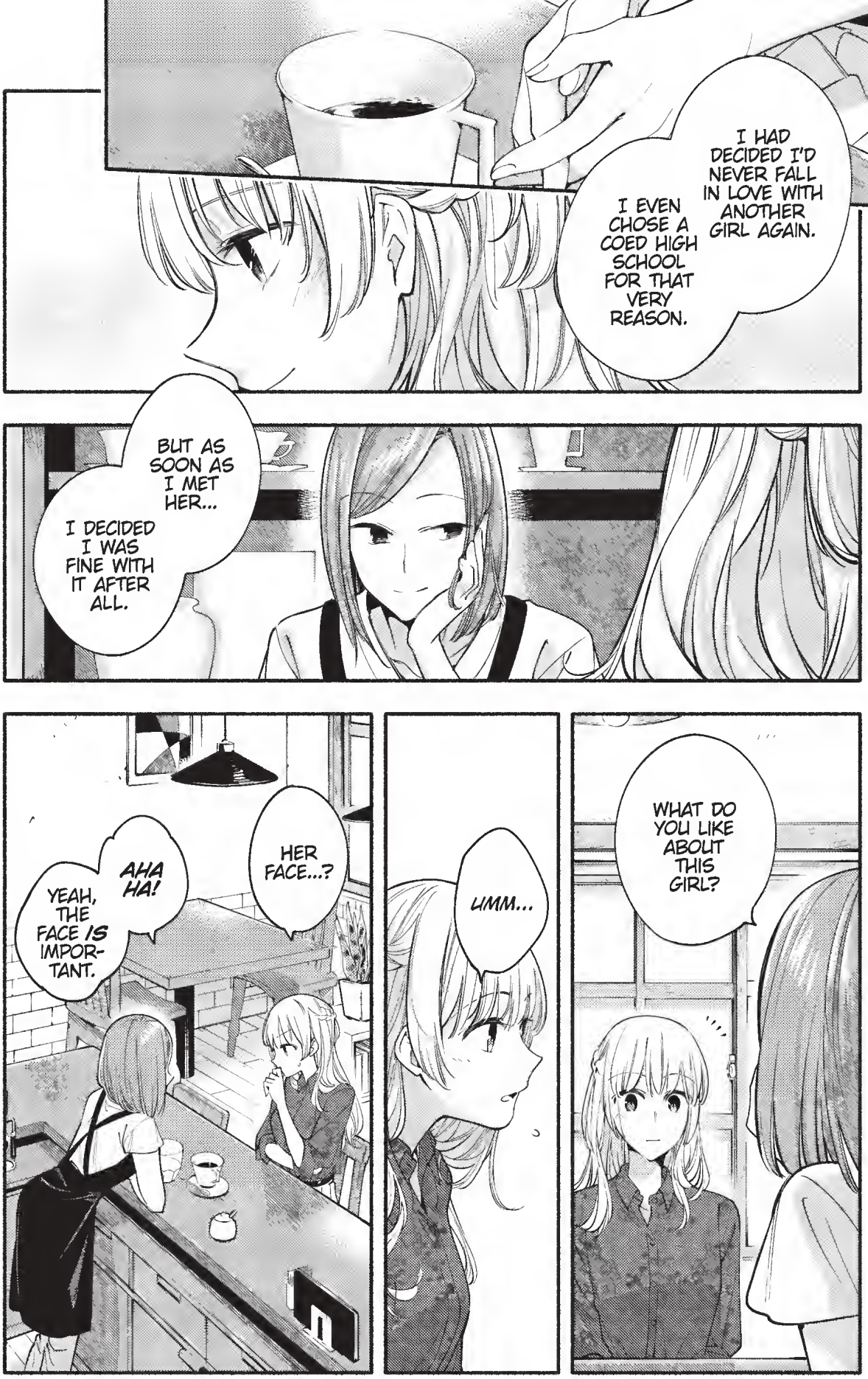
BUT...
ONCE SENPAI STARTED HIGH SCHOOL, WE COULDN'T SEE EACH OTHER AS OFTEN.
DAYS WENT BY WITHOUT US MEETING, THEN WEEKS...
BUT I WAS SURE THAT SENPAI MISSED ME JUST AS MUCH AS I MISSED HER.

SENPAI?
SENPAI!
SAYAKA-CHAN, LISTEN...
YOU AND I AREN'T CHILDREN ANYMORE, SO...
I DON'T THINK... WE SHOULD PLAY AT DATING LIKE THIS ANYMORE.
IT WAS JUST A LITTLE PHASE, REALLY.
I MEAN, WE'RE BOTH GIRLS--YOU KNOW?
HOW COULD SHE SAY THAT WHEN SHE WAS THE ONE WHO MADE ME LIKE THIS...?


I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, 'I'LL JUST FORGET IT.
'ALL OF IT.'
I JUST WANTED TO BE ABLE TO SAY...
THAT IT WAS "JUST A PHASE" FOR ME, TOO.
2012 SCH
Entrance Ceremony

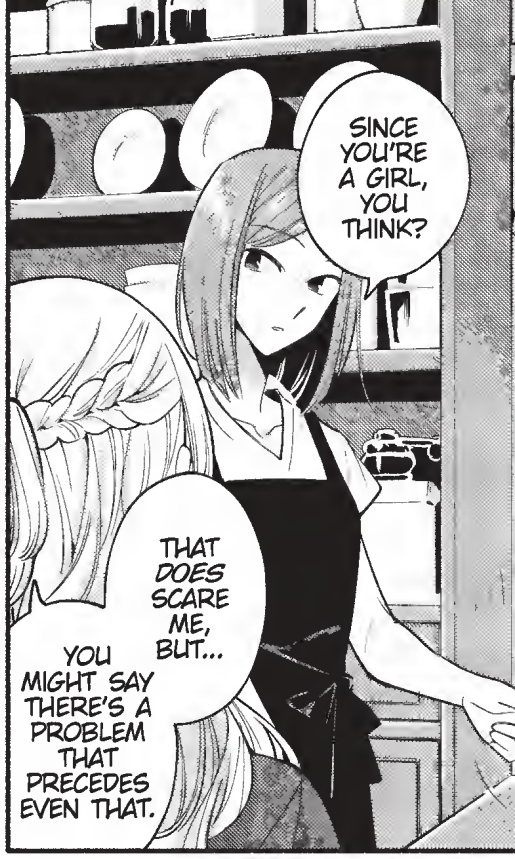
Year 1, class 3...
Nanami Touko.
HERE.
IN THAT INSTANT ...
I'LL CATCH UP RIGHT AWAY...
THE IS ONLY BECAUSE I GOT DISTRACTED BY FOOLISH THINGS AND COULDN'T FOCUS ON MY STUDIES.
I THOUGHT I'D BE THE CLASS REP FOR SURE...
Next, a greeting from our new students.

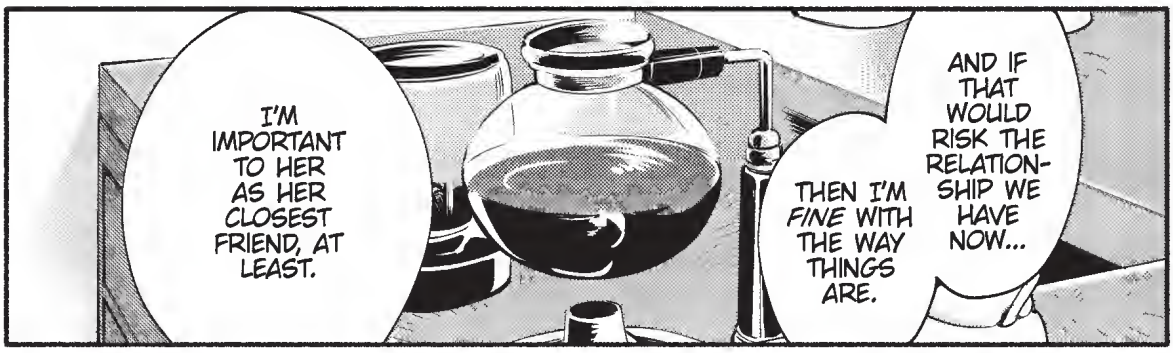
ALL AT ONCE, NONE OF IT MATTERED ANYMORE.

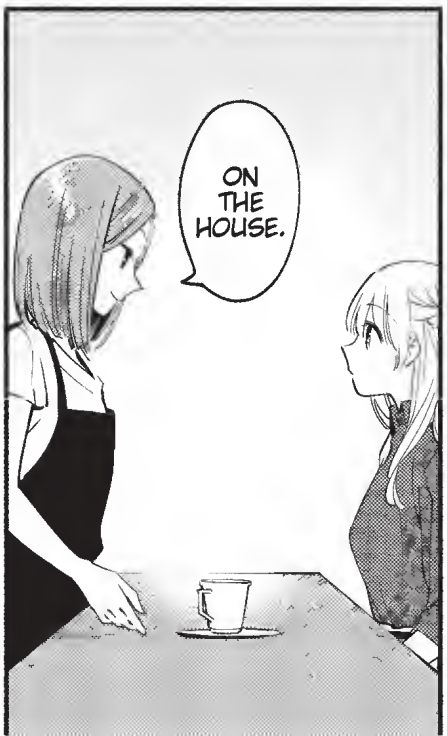

I HAD DECIDED I'D NEVER FALL IN LOVE WITH ANOTHER GIRL AGAIN.
I EVEN CHOSE A COED HIGH SCHOOL FOR THAT VERY REASON.
BUT AS SOON AS I MET HER...
I DECIDED I WAS FINE WITH IT AFTER ALL.
WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THIS GIRL?
UMM...
HER FACE...?
AHA HA!
YEAH, THE FACE IS IMPOR-TANT.

I LOVE WATCHING HER WORK HARD TO CARRY OUT HER IDEALS.
SHE'S ALWAYS WALKING JUST AHEAD OF ME.
AND SHE'S SO TALENT-ED...
WHAT AM I DOING, RAMBLING LIKE THIS...!
OH, PARDON ME!
Ha ha!
WOW, YOU REALLY LIKE HER, HUH?
YOU AREN'T GOING TO CONFESS?
IT WOULD NEVER WORK.
IT'S FINE, I LIKE LISTENING TO CUSTOMERS' STORIES.
MAYBE I JUST WANTED TO TRY TALKING TO SOMEONE ABOUT IT.
I MUST ADMIT...
I'M A BIT ENVIOUS.
SO YOU AND SENSEI ARE IN LOVE...

SHE SIMPLY DOESN'T HAVE THE EXTRA ENERGY TO ACCEPT ANYBODY'S FEELINGS.
IF I CONFESSED TO HER RIGHT NOW, IT WOULD JUST PUT EVEN *MORE* PRESSURE ON HER.


SINCE YOU'RE A GIRL, YOU THINK?
THAT *DOES* SCARE ME, BUT...
YOU MIGHT SAY THERE'S A PROBLEM THAT PRECEDES EVEN THAT.


I'M IMPORTANT TO HER AS HER CLOSEST FRIEND, AT LEAST.
THEN I'M *FINE* WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE.
AND IF THAT WOULD RISK THE RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE NOW...

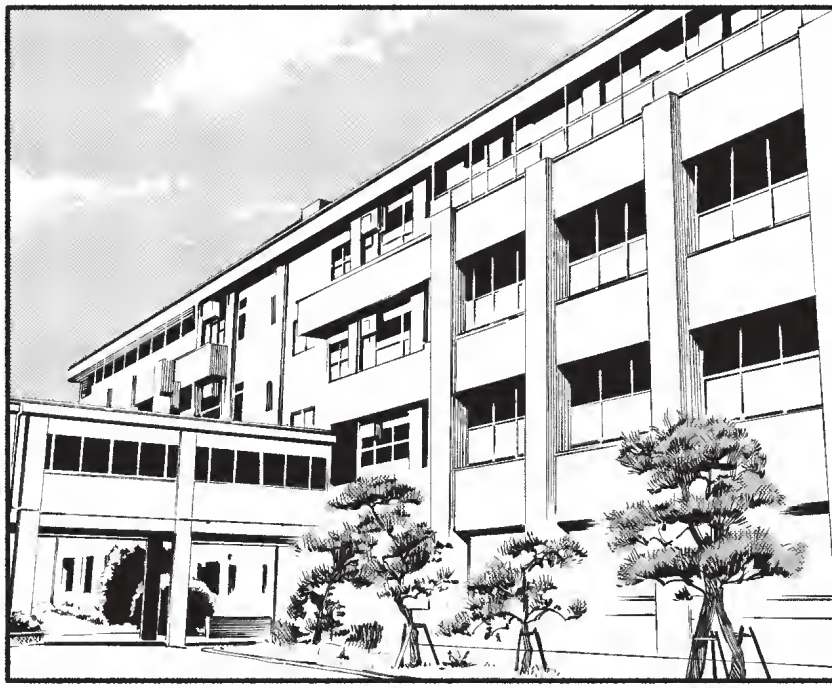

ON THE HOUSE.

CLACK

DOES IT MAKE ME A **COWARD**...
TO HIDE MY **TRUE** FEELINGS SO THAT I CAN STAY BY HER SIDE...?

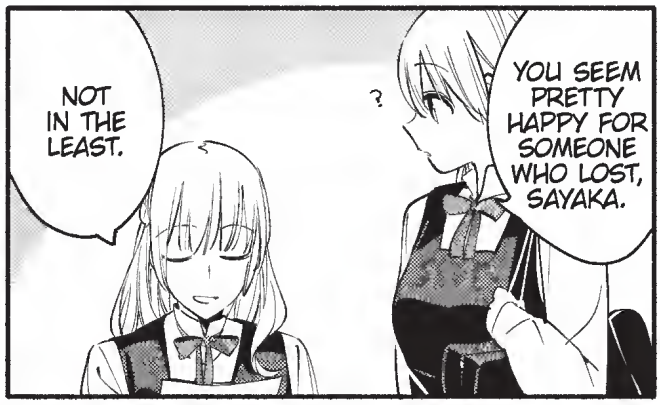
YOU'VE DECIDED TO STAY HER FRIEND...
SO THAT YOU CAN SUPPORT HER WISHES ABOVE YOUR OWN, RIGHT?
THAT'S REALLY KIND OF YOU.
SINCE YOU'RE SUCH A SWEET GIRL.
?
EVEN IF...
I'M ONLY DOING IT BECAUSE I'M SCARED OF BEING PUSHED AWAY...?
EVEN SO...
PUSHING DOWN YOUR TRUE FEELINGS...
IS NO EASY FEAT.
SO...
HERE.
THANK YOU.

NANAMI TOUKO
10
Saeki Sayaka
9
I WIN!



AS SOON AS YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN, I'M GOING TO PASS YOU, YOU KNOW.
RIGHT, RIGHT.

AH, VICTORY AT LAST!
AH, WELL.
9


YOU SEEM PRETTY HAPPY FOR SOMEONE WHO LOST, SAYAKA.
?
NOT IN THE LEAST.

I'M SO LUCKY TO HAVE YOU, SAYAKA.
IF YOU WEREN'T AROUND TO KEEP ME ON MY TOES AND ALL...
I MIGHT START TO SLACK OFF.
NOT JUST WITH STUDYING, EITHER...
BUT STUDENT COUNCIL AND ALL, TOO.
WHEN I REMIND MYSELF THAT I'M STANDING IN FRONT OF YOU...
I FEEL LIKE I CAN GET A LITTLE CLOSER TO MY IDEAL SELF.

SO I'LL KEEP COUNTING ON YOU...
OKAY, SAYAKA?
RIGHT NOW, THIS IS ENOUGH.
THE WAY THINGS ARE IS ENOUGH, FOR NOW.

SHE WEARS CONTACTS AT SCHOOL.

Bloom Into You

The Day Touko Came to Yuu's Place to Study: Interlude: Big Sister's Perspective

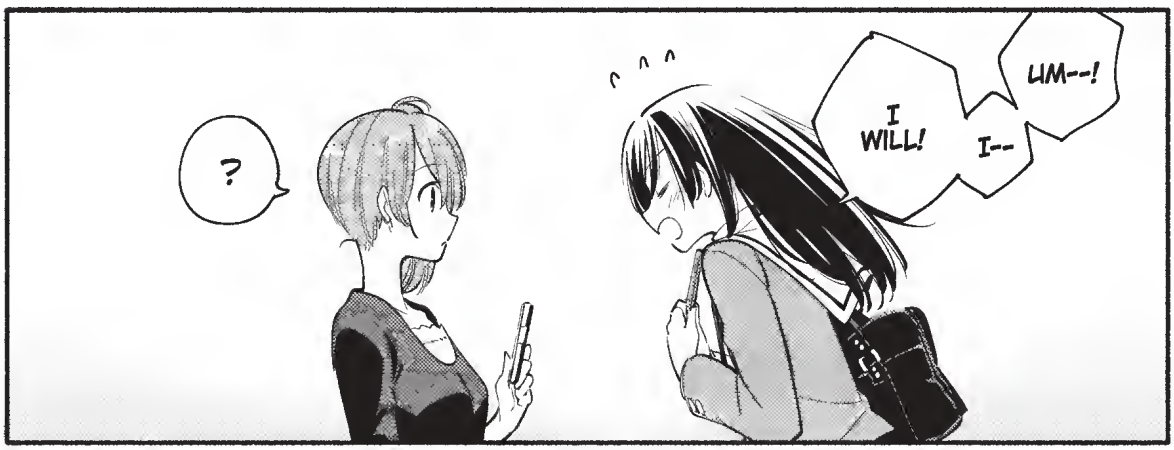
YEAH, I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE GETS IT FROM...
SHE'S A GOOD STUDENT.
SHE GOES TO TOOMI EAST HIGH, RIGHT?
WOW, GOOD FOR YUU-CHAN.
ALTHOUGH, IT SEEMS LIKE SHE WASN'T SURE WHAT TO DO AT FIRST.
WOW!
A STAR PUPIL!
SHE'S EVEN IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL NOW.
WAS THAT GIRL SHE BROUGHT A FRIEND OF HERS?
SHE WAS VERY PRETTY.
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO DECISIONS, SHE GETS SO WISHY-WASHY.
THAT KID'S FINE ONCE SHE PUTS HER MIND TO SOME-THING...
IT'D BE GOOD IF SHE COULD FIND SOMEONE TO PULL HER FORWARD.

THEY SEEM PRETTY CLOSE, HUH?
OH YEAH, SHE GAVE YUU A SOUVENIR A WHILE BACK.
FROM A PLANE-TARIUM, I THINK...
IT PROJECTS STARS ON THE CEILING.
A SENPAI FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL, SHE SAID.
THAT WAS MY FIRST TIME MEETING HER, TOO.
YEAH... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
YEAH?
FOR A GIFT FROM A SENPAI TO A KOUHAI, THAT SEEMS PRETTY...
I DUNNO, GUNG-HO?
HEY, MAYBE THAT SENPAI'S ACTUALLY HER GIRL-FRIEND?!
Ah ha ha ha ha.
YEAH, AS IF!
NO WAY, RIGHT?

YOU GOING HOME?
YES, THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME.
AH!
DID I RETURN THE REFER-ENCE BOOK YOU LENT ME?
OH, MAYBE NOT.
I'LL GO GRAB IT! WAIT ONE SEC.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE CAKE, MA'AM.
IT WAS VERY GOOD.
SURE, GLAD YOU LIKED IT.
DO YOU DO A LOT OF BAKING?
WELL, NOT SO OFTEN THESE DAYS...
I USED TO DO IT A LOT, THOUGH.
PERK
YUU LOVES CHEESE-CAKE, SO...
UM...
IF YOU DON'T MIND, COULD YOU GIVE ME THE RECIPE, PLEASE?
UH, SURE.
HOW ABOUT YOU GIVE ME YOUR EMAIL AND I'LL SEND IT TO YOU LATER?
PER-FECT!

Friend List
14:05
Nanami Touko
TAKE GOOD CARE OF YUU FOR ME.
"NANAMI TOUKO" ...
NANAMI-CHAN, IS IT?
OKAY. GOT IT.


?
I WILL!
I--
UM--!

NO WAY, RIGHT?
YR22
YR222

I'LL HAVE TO PRACTICE THIS SOON.
Rei
Cream Cheese 200g
Fresh Cream 100g
Sugar 70g
1 Egg
Wheat Flour 20g
Wafer Cookies 80g
Butter 40g
1. Crush the cookie
Rei
She fell asleep in the living room.
21:41
21:41
YR22
YR222
?
KICK
Kick

I CAN'T... BUT I WANT TO...!
I WANT TO MAKE IT MY LOCK SCREEN...
clench

Bloom Into You

13

Downpour

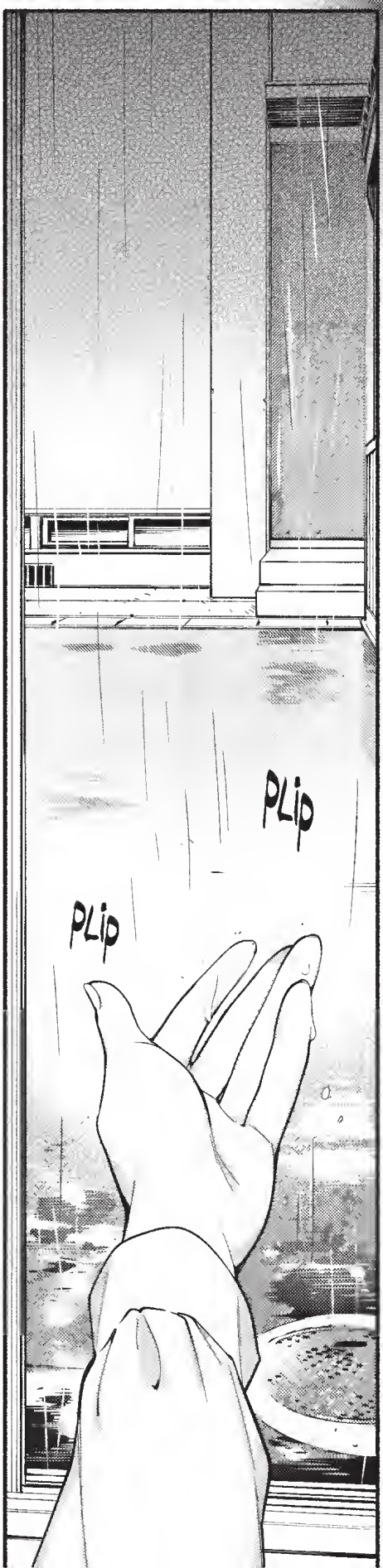
EPISODE THIRTEEN

"DON'T FALL IN LOVE WITH ME."
BACK THEN, I THINK NANAMI-SENPAI WAS REALLY SAYING...
"BE WITH ME.
"DON'T FALL IN LOVE WITH ANYONE ELSE.
"DON'T GROW COLD OR DISTANT."

IT'S STILL RAINING OUT...

YUU!
SORRY I'M LATE.

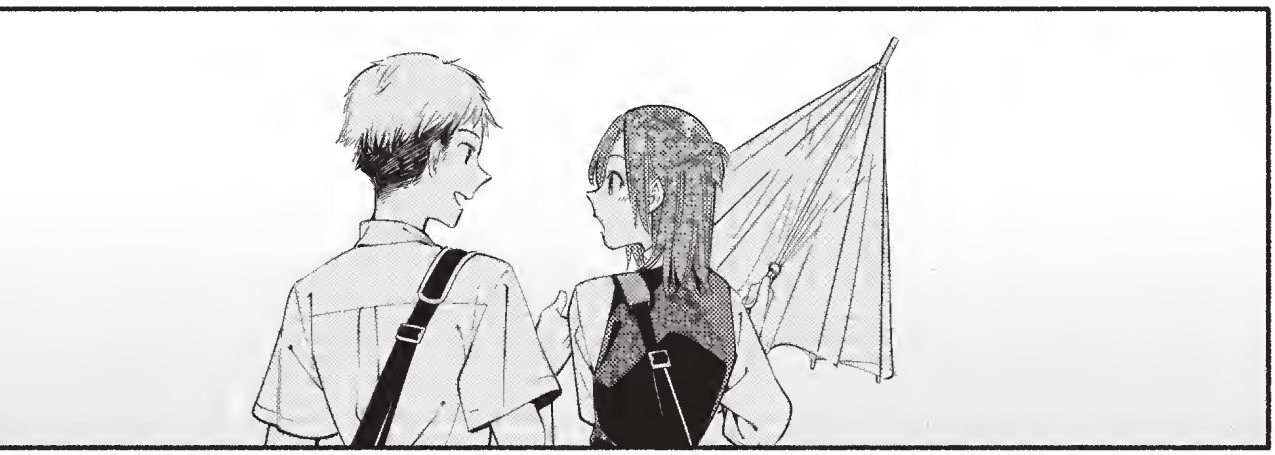
HEY, AKARI.

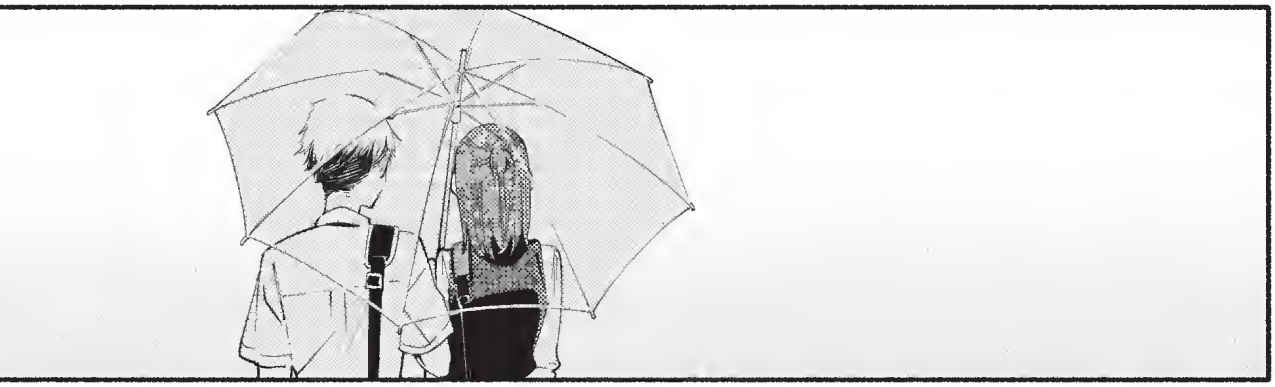

PLIP
PLIP

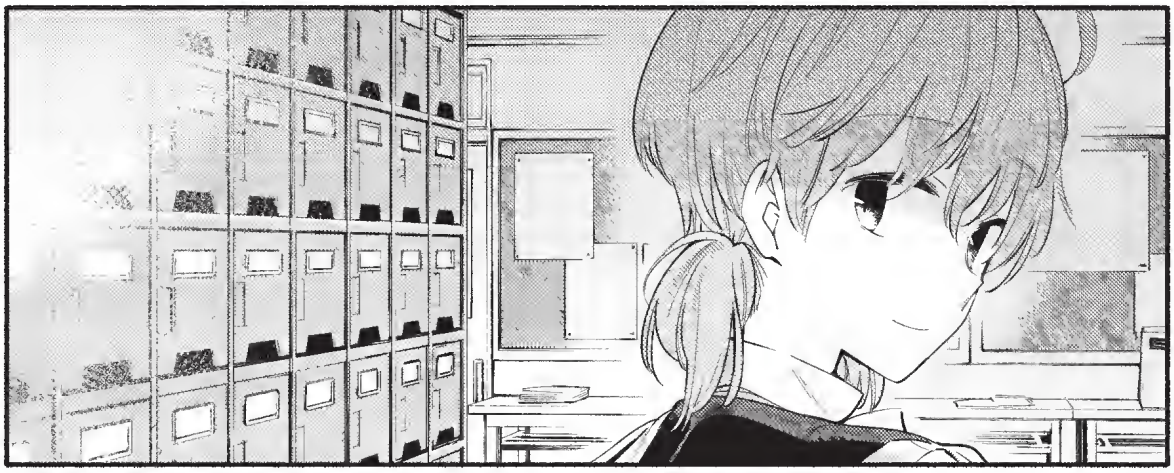
ALL DONE WITH YOUR MEET?
YEAH, IT DIDN'T LAST LONG.
WHY'S IT GOTTA RAIN ON DAYS WHEN WE'RE PRACTICING OUTSIDE?
Ugh...
I'M GLAD YOU BROUGHT AN UMBRELLA WITH YOU.
DID KOYOMI GO HOME ALREADY?
YEAH.
SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO HURRY HOME AND WORK ON THE SCRIPT.
SHE SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING HERSELF, HUH?
RIKO-SENSEI LENT HER SOME PLAYS ON DVD...
I GUESS THEY'VE GIVEN HER SOME GOOD IDEAS.
OHH.
WELL, I HOPE IT DOESN'T RAIN FOR THE FIELD DAY...
YEAH.

AH...!
YOU DON'T HAVE AN UMBRELLA?
I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS GONNA RAIN, MAN!
GUESS I'LL JUST RUN HOME.
OKAY, SEE YA.
AHH.
THAT'S THE SENPAI THAT AKARI...

HUH?
BUT ...!
DON'T WORRY, I'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.
GO ON AHEAD.
THANKS, YUU.
GO!
push







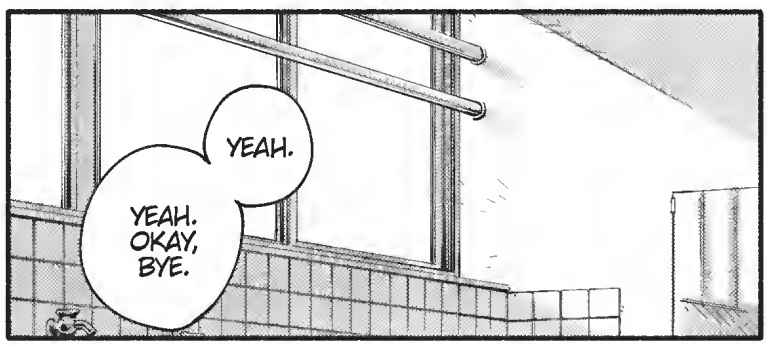
SO...
I SAID I'D FIGURE SOMETHING OUT, BUT...
I WONDER IF THERE'S ANYONE LEFT WHO DOESN'T HAVE CLUB STUFF?
SOMEONE WHO LIVES IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS ME AND ISN'T IN A CLUB...
HMM...

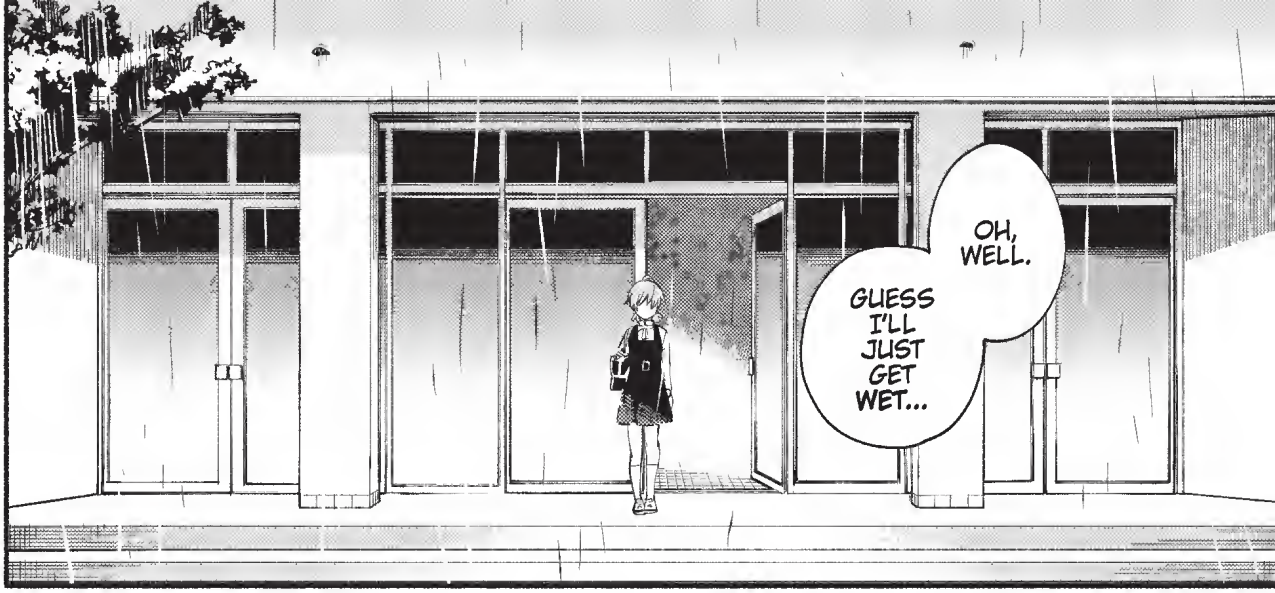
CRUMPLE...
Loan Umbrellas
Please be sure to return them the following day.
MAYBE I CAN GET REI-CHAN TO COME PICK ME UP.
HELLO?
BRR--
BRRRING BRRRING
HOW LATE DOES SHE HAVE CLASS TODAY?
I HOPE SHE'S FREE, BUT...

HELLO, YUU-CHAN?
HUH? HIRO-KUN?
YEAH, REI-CHAN'S DRIVING RIGHT NOW.
DID YOU FORGET YOUR UMBREL-LA?
WANT US TO COME GET YOU?

AW, MAA-AN...
SO SHE'S WITH HIRO-KUN...

NO, NO, IT'S FINE!
I'LL FIGURE IT OUT.
I DON'T WANT TO CRASH YOUR DATE.

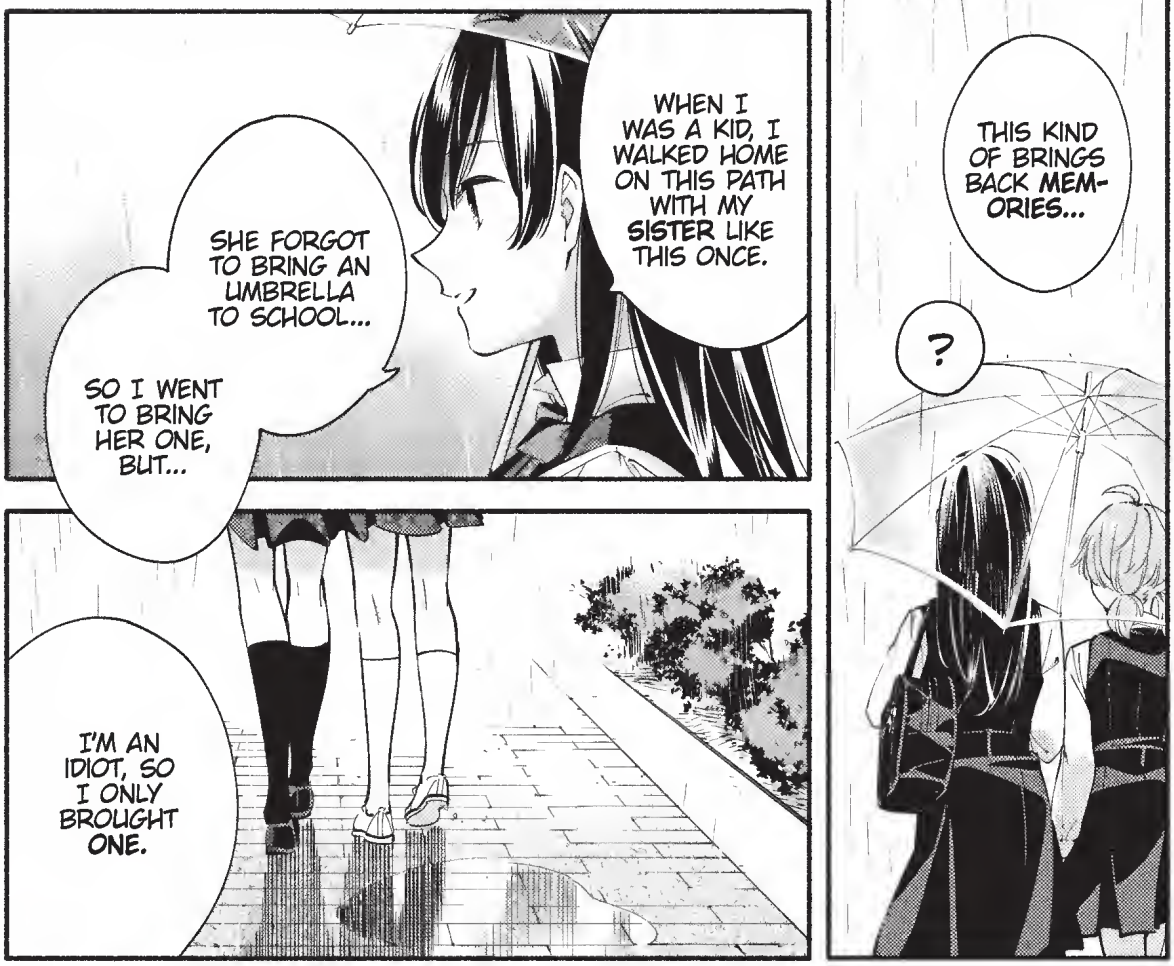

YEAH.
YEAH. OKAY, BYE.

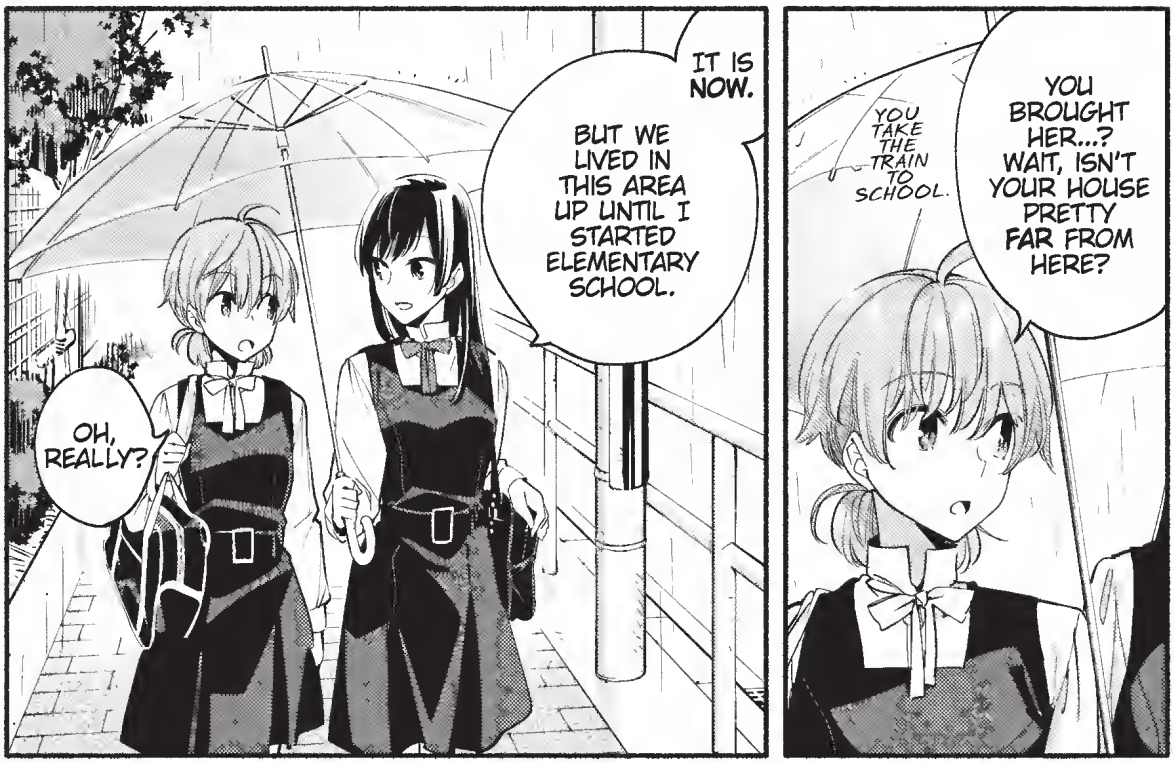

OH, WELL.
GUESS I'LL JUST GET WET...

Profile
Nanami-senpai
Phone Number
.....

YUU!

YOU DON'T HAVE AN UMBRELLA, DO YOU?
WERE YOU JUST GOING TO GO HOME LIKE THAT?
I'M GLAD I CAUGHT YOU.
YUU.
I CALLED YOU EARLIER, BUT I GOT A BUSY SIGNAL...
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
OH...
NO, NO.
LET'S WALK TOGETHER, THEN.
?


THIS KIND OF BRINGS BACK MEMORIES...
?
WHEN I WAS A KID, I WALKED HOME ON THIS PATH WITH MY SISTER LIKE THIS ONCE.
SHE FORGOT TO BRING AN UMBRELLA TO SCHOOL...
SO I WENT TO BRING HER ONE, BUT...
I'M AN IDIOT, SO I ONLY BROUGHT ONE.


YOU BROUGHT HER...? WAIT, ISN'T YOUR HOUSE PRETTY FAR FROM HERE?
YOU TAKE THE TRAIN TO SCHOOL.
IT IS NOW.
BUT WE LIVED IN THIS AREA UP UNTIL I STARTED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
OH, REALLY?

IF WE HADN'T MOVED...
I MIGHT'VE GONE TO THE SAME MIDDLE SCHOOL AS YOU DID.
YEAH, BUT WE *STILL* PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE MET.
WHAAT? THAT'S NOT VERY NICE.
YOU KNOW... YOU'RE THE **ONLY** PERSON I CAN TALK TO ABOUT MY CHILDHOOD LIKE THIS, YUU.
HEH.
AH!
I'M SORRY, SENPAI! I SHOULDN'T MAKE YOU CARRY THE UMBRELLA.
HERE, I'LL TAKE IT.
NO, IT'S FINE.
WHOOPS.

THE PERSON WHO'S TALLER OUGHT TO CARRY IT.
WE'RE PRACTICALLY THE SAME HEIGHT, THOUGH!
ARE WE NOW? I THINK I HAVE AT LEAST TEN CENTIMETERS ON YOU.
WHAT?!
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT!
OH? I'M A HUNDRED AND SIXTY-THREE CENTIMETERS TALL.
U...
URGHH ...!

COME ON, GIVE IT BACK.
NO WAY!
AH--!
LOOK, YOU'RE TOTALLY SOAKED ON THAT SIDE NOW!

IT'S YOUR UMBRELLA-- YOU SHOULD COVER YOURSELF MORE!
tug tug
BUT I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET WET!
WHO CARES ABOUT ME?!!
JEEZ ... WHAT'S UP WITH US?
THIS IS SO SILLY.
HEH.
HEH HEH.
AHA HA!
I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN YOU...
LAUGH OUT LOUD LIKE THAT, YUU.
IS IT REALLY?

BEING WITH ME TROUBLES YOU?
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS CAUSING TROUBLE FOR ME, SENPAI.
I'M HAVING FUN RIGHT NOW.
NO, IT DOESN'T.
IN FACT, I THINK...
SO WHY DON'T WE STOP UNDER THAT AWNING OVER THERE FOR NOW?
WELL, IT'D TROUBLE ME IF YOU CAUGHT A COLD...

YOU'RE GOOD AT TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE, AREN'T YOU?
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A YOUNGER SISTER LIKE ME...
JUST HOLD STILL, PLEASE.
RUB
RUB
?
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT IT.
SOMETIMES IT MAKES ME WORRY I'M TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOUR KINDNESS.

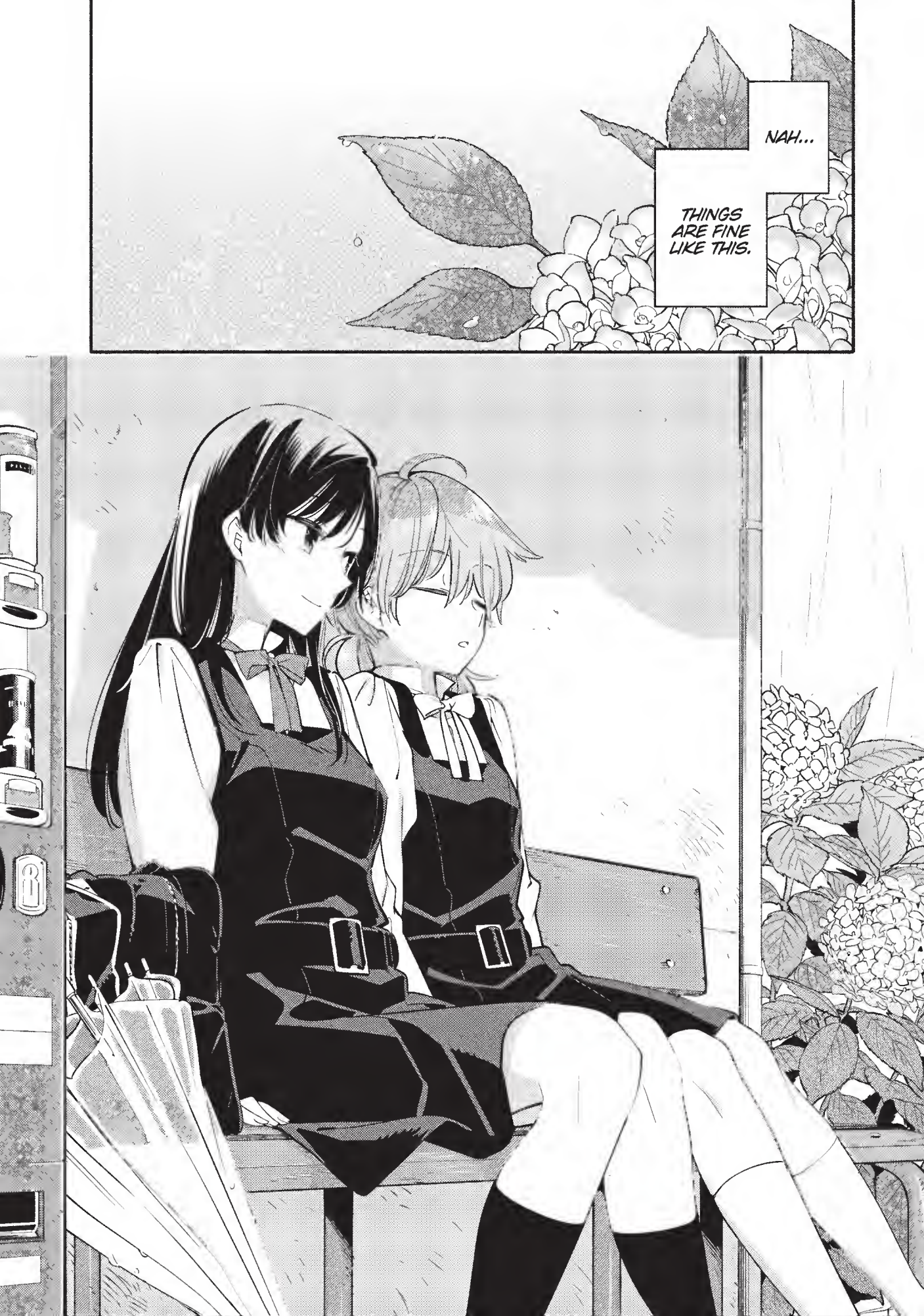
I GET NERVOUS THAT MAYBE YOU DON'T ACTUALLY WANT TO BE AROUND ME.
THAT YOU'RE JUST PUTTING UP WITH IT FOR MY SAKE.
I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO HATE ME...
ARE YOU OKAY?
ISN'T ASKING THAT EVEN MORE PRESUMPTUOUS?
MAYBE YOUNGER SISTERS ARE GOOD AT THAT...?
I'M FINE.
I DON'T THINK OF IT AS "TAKING CARE OF YOU" OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
ANYWAY, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAME TO MY RESCUE TODAY.
BESIDES...

I WAS HAPPY.
YOU WERE HAPPY?

OH, UM...
I'D JUST ASKED A BUNCH OF PEOPLE FOR HELP...
BUT NO ONE COULD...
SO I WAS RELIEVED WHEN YOU SHOWED UP-- THAT'S ALL.
I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING WEIRD...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
"YOU WERE HAPPY"?
RIGHT, OF COURSE NOT.

"LOVEY-DOVEY"...
.....
I'M HAPPY, TOO.
SINCE WE GOT TO BE ALL LOVEY-DOVEY.
YOU DON'T FIND IT EMBAR-RASSING TO SAY THAT?
WHAAAT? WHAT WOULD YOU CALL IT, THEN?
I DON'T KNOW...
HEY, YUU. CAN WE...
STAY HERE A LITTLE LONGER?
YEAH, THAT'S FINE.

YAY!
SHE'S WARM.
HER BODY TEMPERATURE SEEMS HIGH...
OR MAYBE MINE'S JUST LOW.
I WISH SHE'D SHARE.


NAH...
THINGS ARE FINE LIKE THIS.

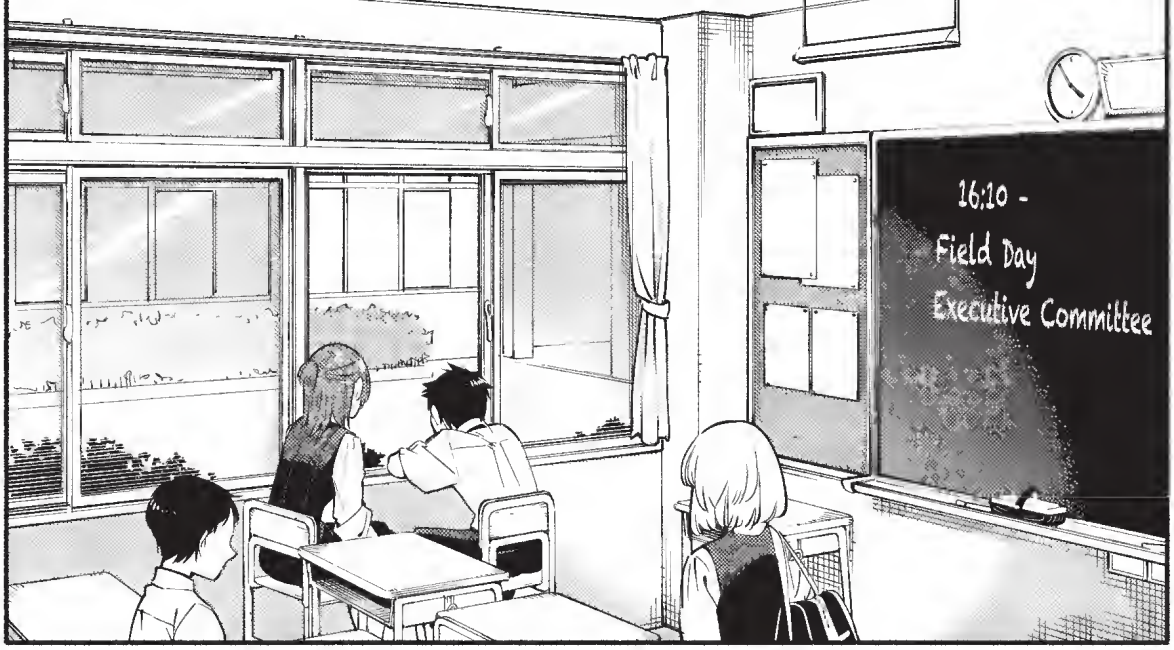
glug glug
MILK
Grow up tall!

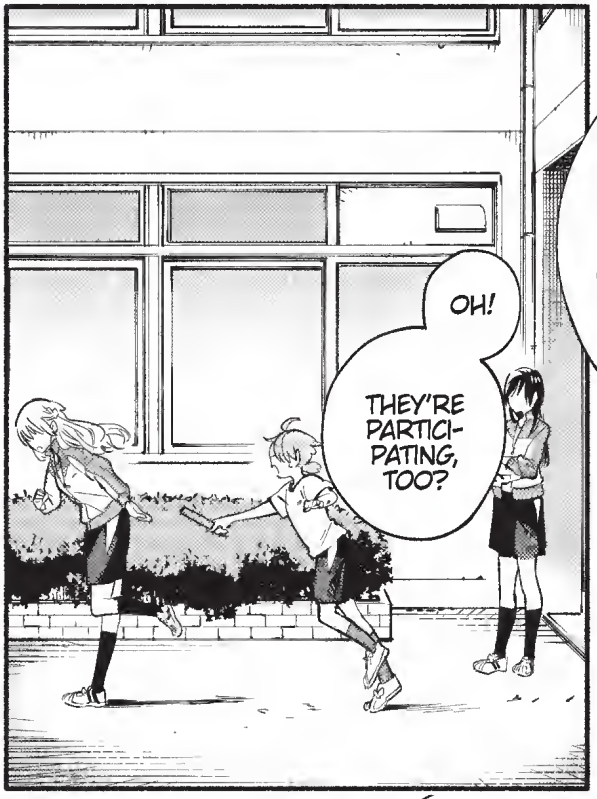
Bloom Into You

14

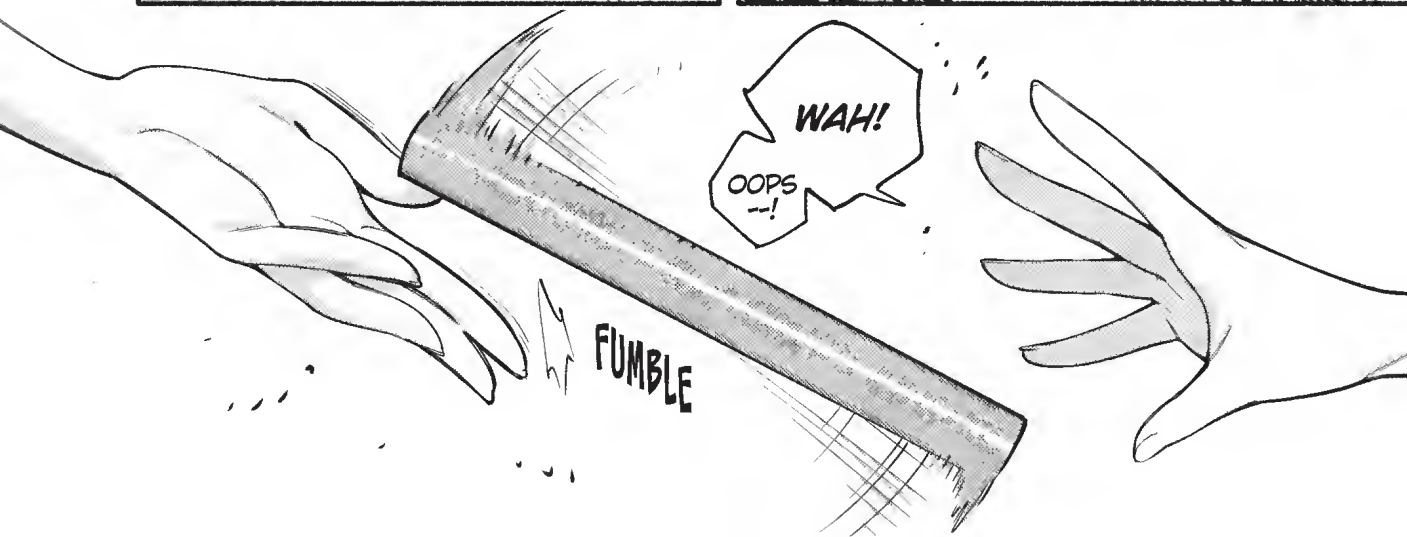
Point of Intersection

EPISODE FOURTEEN


16:10 -
Field Day
Executive Committee


OH!
THEY'RE PARTICI-PATING, TOO?

WHAT'S THE STUDENT COUNCIL DOING OUT THERE?
PROBABLY PRACTICING FOR THE CLUB RELAY, I BET.


WAH!
OOPS --!
FUMBLE

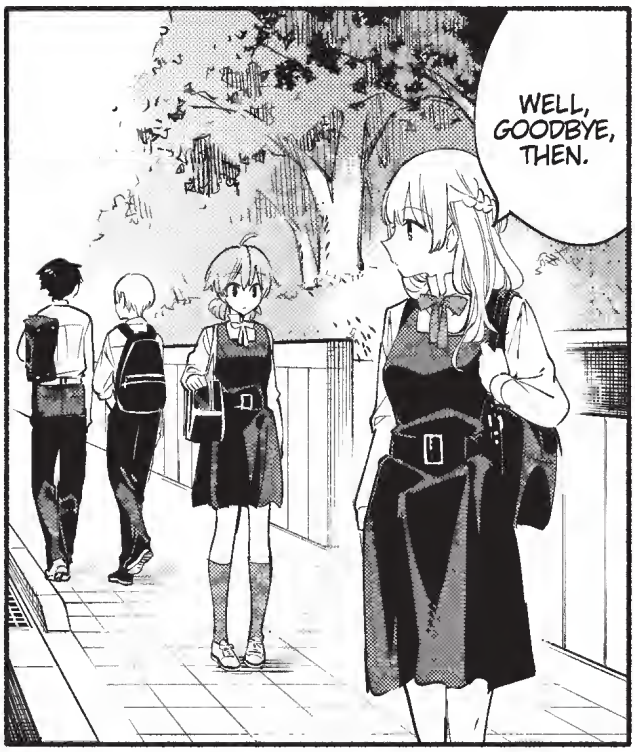
HMM.
YUU AND SAYAKA'S PASS IS THE ONLY BIT WE CAN'T GET RIGHT.
I'M SORRY, SAEKI-SENPAI...!
YOU START RUNNING TOO EARLY!
NO, YOU'RE JUST SLOWING DOWN TOO MUCH.
HEY, STUDENT COUNCIL!
TIME'S JUST ABOUT UP.
BETTER GET CHANGED AND GET IN HERE.
COMING!
SAYAKA, YUU, YOU'LL HAVE TO PRACTICE MORE LATER.
WHAT?!
HEY, KOITO-SAN-- DO YOU AND SAEKI-SENPAI NOT GET ALONG?
I--!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL!

FOR THE MOST PART...
MOST PEOPLE SEE NANAMI-SENPAI SIMPLY AS...
THE CAPABLE PERSON SHE IS ON THE SURFACE.
THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRES IS AMAZING, HUH?
LOOKS LIKE THIS'LL BE OVER QUICKER THAN EXPECTED.

MAYBE EVEN EVERYONE BUT ME AND SAEKI-SENPAI.
THAT'S IT FOR TODAY.
GOOD WORK.
NANAMI, COULD YOU STAY BEHIND FOR A MINUTE?
CER-TAINLY.
THE REST OF YOU CAN GO ON HOME.
NICE JOB TODAY.
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW, THEN.
GOOD WORK, GUYS.
KOITO-SAN, SAEKI-SENPAI-- AREN'T YOU GOING TO DO THAT RELAY PRACTICE?

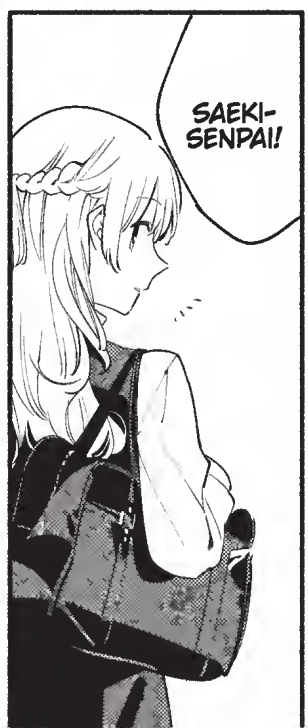
SHOULD WE DO IT? PRACTICE, I MEAN?
I DON'T SEE ANY NEED FOR THAT, DO YOU?
I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE A MORE SERIOUS PERSON, SAEKI-SENPAI.
I JUST KNOW HOW TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN WHAT NEEDS TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY AND WHAT DOESN'T.
THE CLUB RELAY RACE IS REALLY NOTHING MORE THAN A GAME.
ALTHOUGH, TOUKO DOES SEEM BENT ON WINNING.
I SEE...
.....

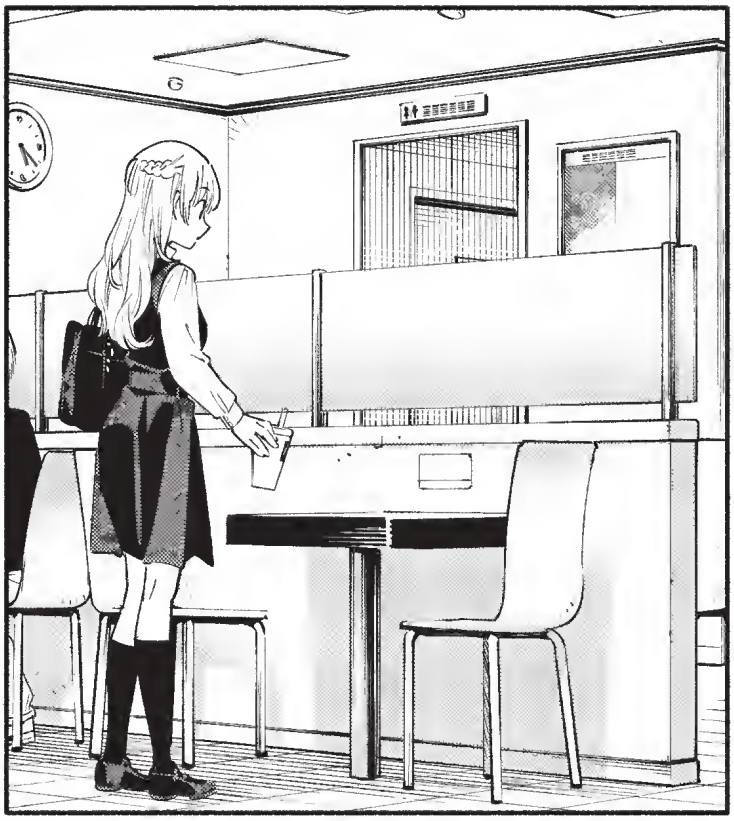
"HEY, KOITO-SAN-- DO YOU AND SAEKI-SENPAI NOT GET ALONG?"
.....


WELL, GOODBYE, THEN.

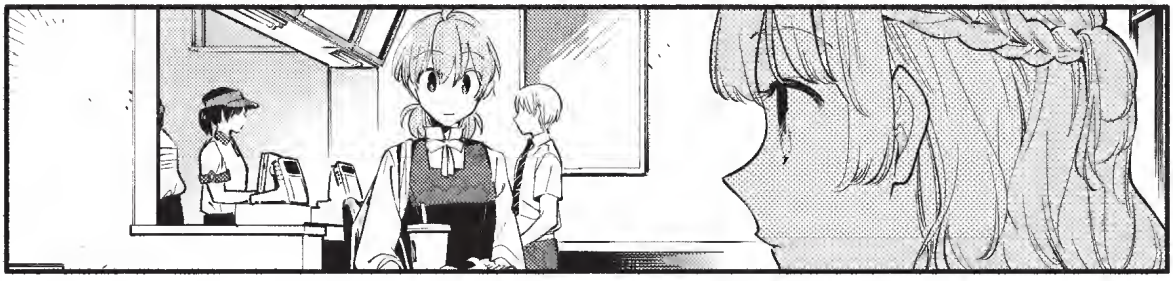
ERM...
WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO BE HUNGRY AT ALL, OR...?

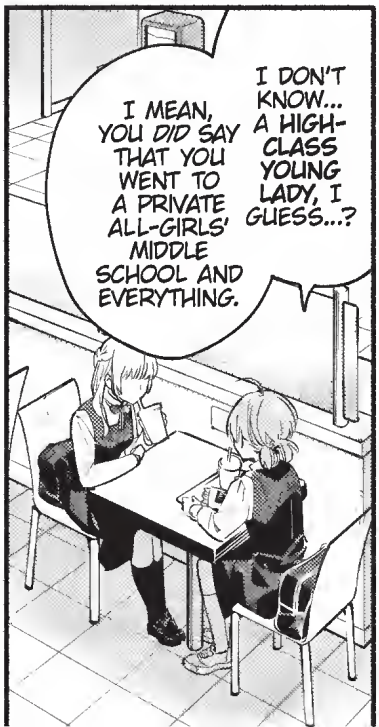
?


SAEKI-SENPAI!



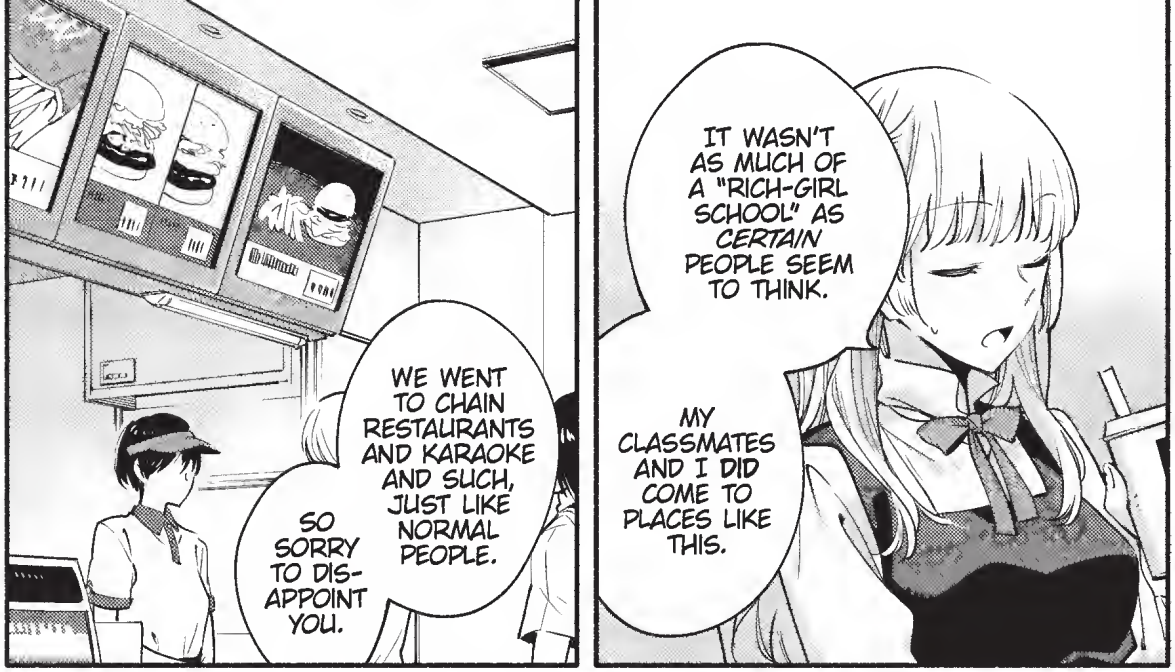
Hamburgers

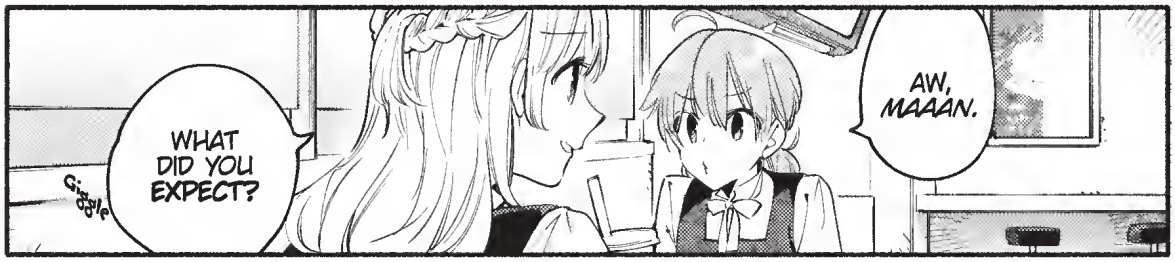



I DON'T KNOW... A HIGH-CLASS YOUNG LADY, I GUESS...?
I MEAN, YOU *DID* SAY THAT YOU WENT TO A PRIVATE ALL-GIRLS' MIDDLE SCHOOL AND EVERYTHING.

OF COURSE NOT.
WHAT KIND OF PERSON DO YOU THINK I *AM*, EXACTLY?

IS THIS MAYBE YOUR **FIRST TIME** AT A PLACE LIKE THIS, SAEKI-SENPAI...?
Hee hee!


IT WASN'T AS MUCH OF A "RICH-GIRL SCHOOL" AS CERTAIN PEOPLE SEEM TO THINK.
MY CLASSMATES AND I DID COME TO PLACES LIKE THIS.
WE WENT TO CHAIN RESTAURANTS AND KARAOKE AND SUCH, JUST LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE.
SO SORRY TO DIS-APPOINT YOU.

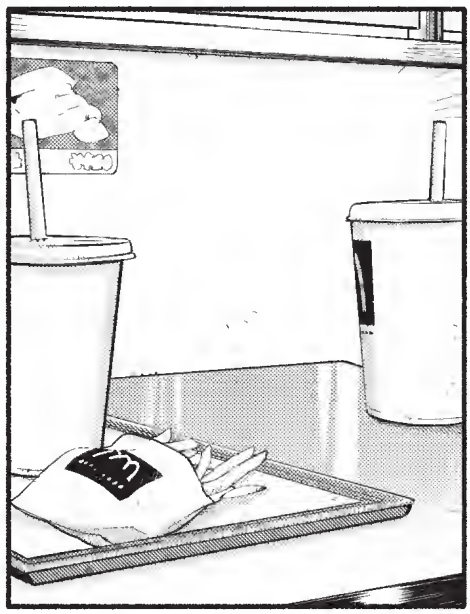

AW, MAAAN.
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?
Giggle

YOU'RE TRYING TO DEEPEN OUR FRIENDSHIP BECAUSE WE DON'T REALLY GET ALONG, CORRECT?
"DON'T GET ALONG," HUH?
DON'T SAY IT LIKE THAT...
.....
I MUST SAY, IT'S A BIT EMBAR-RASSING TO HAVE A KOUHAI LOOKING OUT FOR ME.

FROM YOUR APPEARANCE, I WAS KIND OF EXPECTING YOU TO BE A MORE LIGHTHEARTED PERSON...
BUT YOU'RE NOT AT ALL, ARE YOU, SAEKI-SENPAI?
WELL, KOITO-SAN, I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE A MEEK LITTLE KOUHAI...
BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY RATHER RUDE.
AL-THOUGH ...

I DON'T DISLIKE GIRLS WHO GET RIGHT TO THE POINT.
WHAT IS IT?
OH, NOTH-ING.

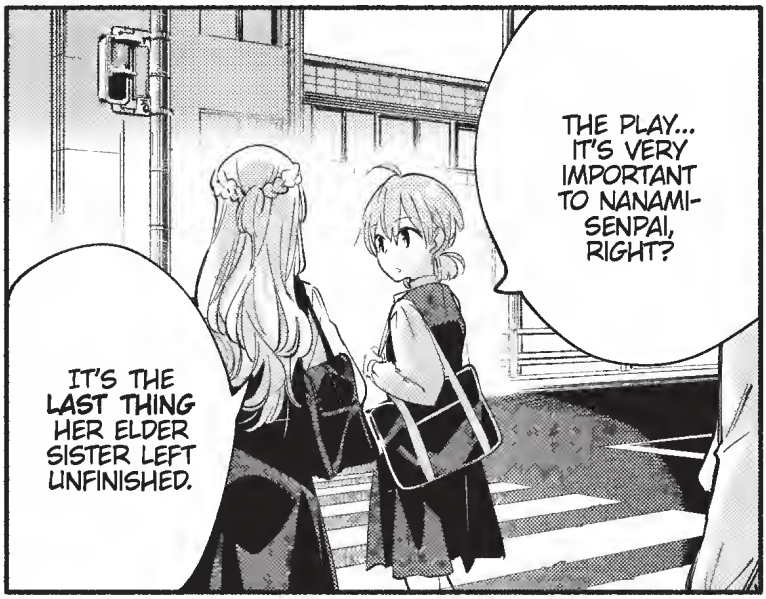
SAEKI-SENPAI, IF WE'RE BEING HONEST...
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO DO THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL PLAY?



PERSONALLY, I DON'T CARE MUCH EITHER WAY.
IT'S NOT AS IF IT DOESN'T SEEM FUN...
BUT IT'S A LOT OF TROUBLE, TOO.
THEN YOU'RE DOING IT BECAUSE NANAMI-SENPAI WANTS TO, RIGHT?
IF TOUKO WANTS TO DO SOMETHING, I'LL ALWAYS SUPPORT HER.
THOUGH, I DO THINK IT COULD BE AMUSING IF IT GOES WELL.
AND AT ANY RATE, THAT GIRL IS TERRIBLY STUBBORN.
ONCE SHE DECIDES TO DO SOMETHING, THERE'S REALLY NO STOPPING HER.
SAEKI-SENPAI, YOU...

YOU REALLY LIKE NANAMI-SENPAI, DON'T YOU?
BUT OF COURSE.
I THINK OF HER AS MY CLOSEST FRIEND.
DO YOU "LIKE" TOUKO?
HUH?!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
IS IT THAT KIND OF "LIKE"?
I MEAN ...
I LIKE HER WELL ENOUGH AS A SENPAI AND ALL...
BUT, ERR...

INDEED.
AS A FRIEND, AS A SENPAI...
WHAT *OTHER* MEANING WOULD THERE BE?


THE PLAY... IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO NANAMI-SENPAI, RIGHT?
IT'S THE LAST THING HER ELDER SISTER LEFT UNFINISHED.

Hamburgers

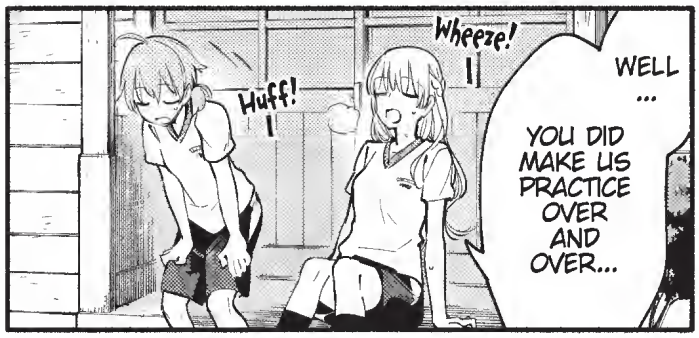
IF SHE CAN PULL IT OFF...
I WONDER IF NANAMI-SENPAI WILL BE ABLE TO STOP PUTTING ON AN ACT.

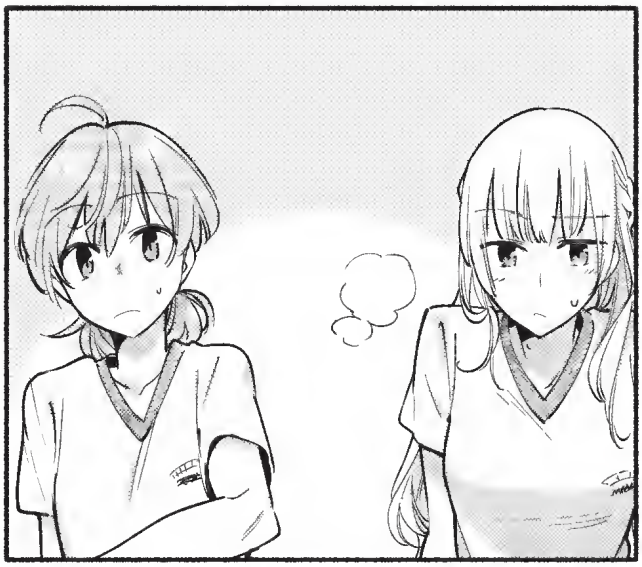
I... DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT TOUKO IS AIMING FOR, BUT...
IF SHE'LL BE ABLE TO BE HERSELF.
IF THAT DAY WERE TO COME...
I WONDER IF I WOULD BE ABLE TO TELL HER I LOVE HER.
I WONDER...
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO ME?

PLAP

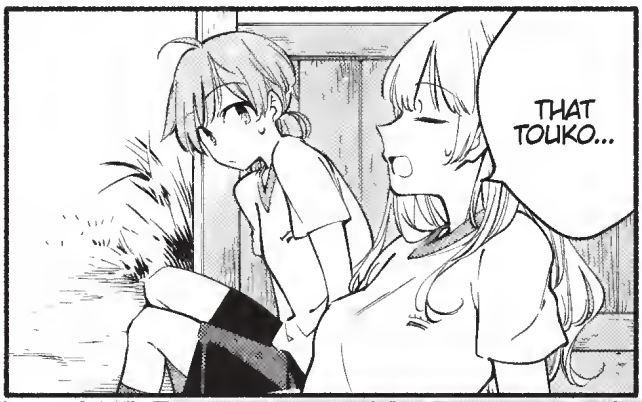
SEE, YOU TWO? YOU CAN DO ANYTHING IF YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO IT!

YOU DID IT!


Huff!
Wheeze!
WELL ...
YOU DID MAKE US PRACTICE OVER AND OVER...



NOW YOU JUST HAVE TO PULL IT OFF WHEN YOU'RE DOING IT FOR *REAL!*

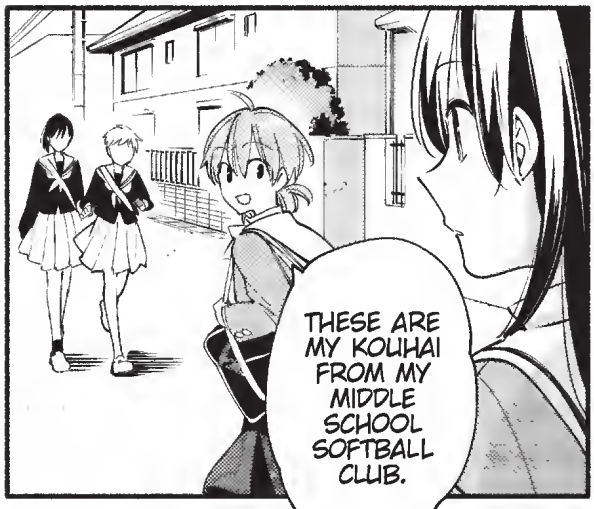

THAT TOUKO...

SHE'S SUCH A PAIN, *ISN'T* SHE?
YOU SAID IT.

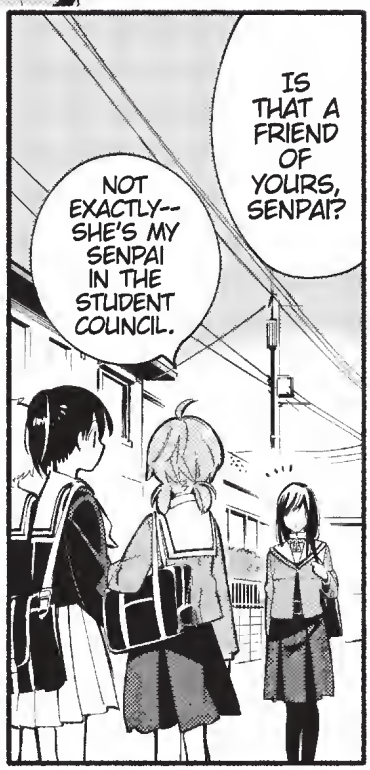
THWACK
バシーン
EEEK!

Bloom Into You

Interlude: Senpai, Kouhai, Kouhai's Kouhai



THIS IS THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT, NANAMI-SENPAI.
BOW
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU!
N--!
NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO!
A SPORTS CLUB!


IS THAT A FRIEND OF YOURS, SENPAI?
NOT EXACTLY-- SHE'S MY SENPAI IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL.

KOITO-SAN, YOU'RE THEIR SENPAI, BUT...

YOU DON'T EXACTLY LOOK THE PART.
!!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
I'M A PROPER SENPAI, TOO, YOU KNOW!
IT WASN'T AN INSULT! IT'S CUTE!
WHO CARES IF IT'S "CUTE"?!
Hrm
YUU-SENPAI MAY BE REALLY SHORT, BUT SHE'S STILL A RELIABLE SENPAI!
YEAH! EVEN IF SHE'S SUPER SHORT!
HEY!
FAIR ENOUGH. DESPITE HER LOOKS, SHE REALLY IS DEPENDABLE, ISN'T SHE?
SHE CAN BE PRETTY COOL, EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.

HEAR THAT, YUU-SENPAI?
LIKE WHEN SHE PLAYS DEFENSE.
SHE'S ALWAYS SO COMPOSED.
AH! I TOTALLY KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!
I'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT.
SO "COOL" WORKS ON YUU, HUH?
THOSE GUYS HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL. JEEZ...

Bloom Into You

WHO IS CLASS 1-6'S COMMITTEE REP? IT'S NOT IN THE RECORD BOOK.
I'LL GO ASK!
AND WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THE 200-METER DASH? IS ANYONE FREE FOR THAT SLOT?
ERRRM ...
KOITO-SAN, DID YOU FIND THE BANNER FROM LAST YEAR?
AH!
I'M SORRY, I TOTALLY FORGOT.
WOULD YOU MIND?
IT'S IN THE GYM STORE-HOUSE, RIGHT? I'LL GO LOOK RIGHT NOW!

I DIDN'T KNOW PREPPING FOR THE FIELD DAY WOULD BE SO CRAZY...
VICTORY
CERTAIN
RATTLE
I'D BETTER GET BACK RIGHT AWAY...
?
East High School
OH, THIS MUST BE IT.
Field Day
RUMMAGE
RUMMAGE
Field Day
EVEN THOUGH I'VE SEEN HER AROUND A BIT...
I FEEL LIKE NANAMI-SENPAI AND I HAVEN'T REALLY BEEN ABLE TO TALK THESE PAST FEW DAYS.

OH, YOU FOUND IT FOR US! THANKS.
SURE.
UHM...
slowly...
WAH!
NANAMI-SENPAI!
THUD
YUU!
CLUNK
RATTLE RATTLE
WHY ARE YOU COMING IN HERE?
HMM?

15

In Position

EPISODE FIFTEEN

UM, SENPAI...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MM...
RE-CHARG-ING?

CAN I?
YEAH, YEAH.
IT FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN SO LONG.
WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY ALONE TIME AT ALL LATELY!
MN...
HONESTLY... ARE YOU DONE NOW?

NOT YET.

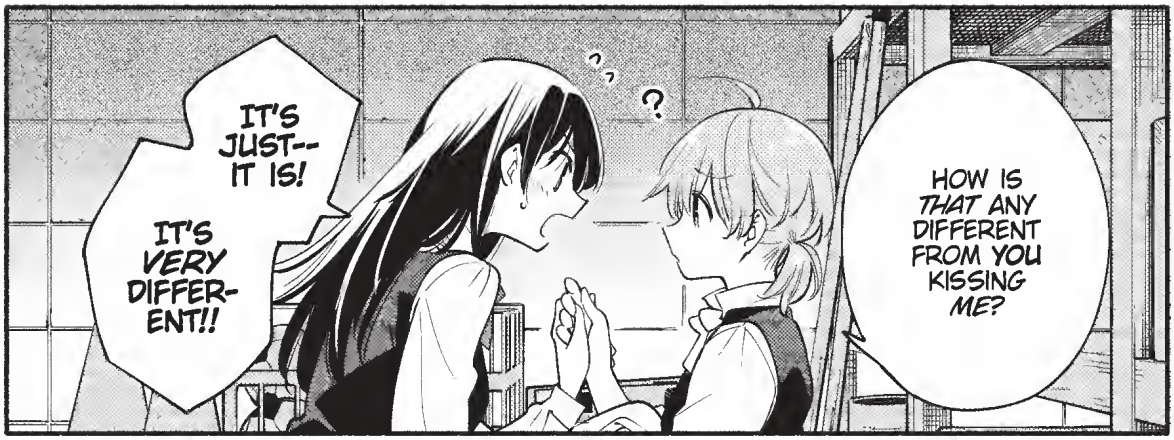
NGH...!

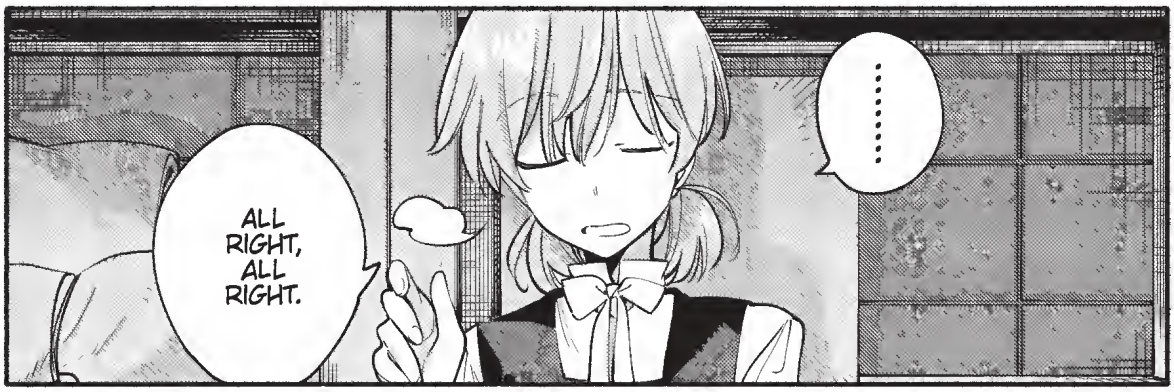
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, WILL YOU?!
SHOVE
MMF!

I'M BUSY, SO I'M GOING BACK NOW.
WAIT, THEN...!

Mf! Mmf!
AW, BUT--
YOU'RE ASKING TOO MUCH!

IF I CAN HOLD OUT FOR NOW...
CAN I GET A REWARD AFTER THE FIELD DAY ENDS?
THAT TICKLES...
A REWARD...
WHAT DOES THAT ENTAIL...?
.....
I WANT YOU TO GIVE ME ONE...
YUU.
A KISS.

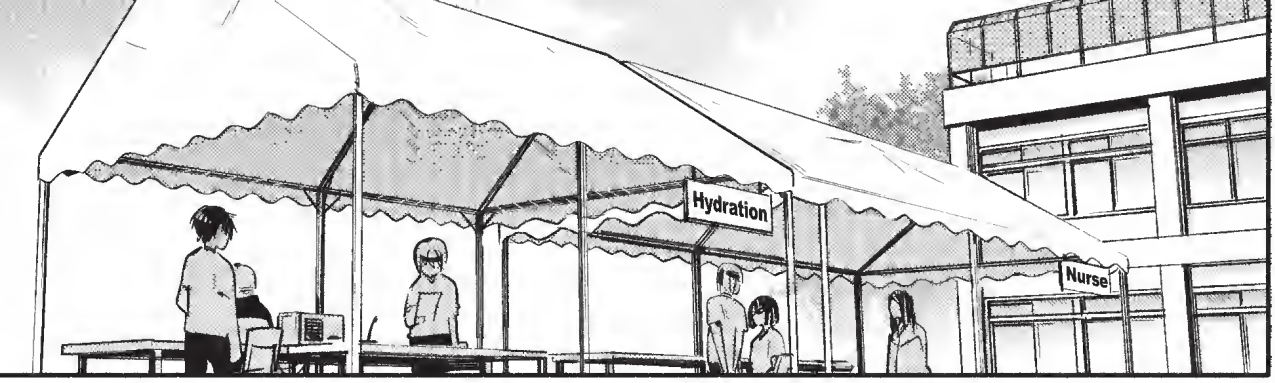

HOW IS THAT ANY DIFFERENT FROM YOU KISSING ME?
?
?
IT'S JUST-- IT IS!
IT'S VERY DIFFER-ENT!!


.....
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.

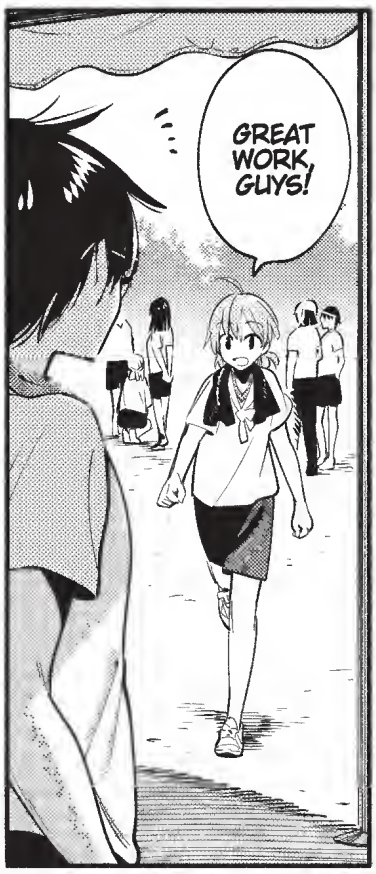
YES!

BUT YOU HAVE TO HOLD OUT AND WORK HARD UNTIL THEN, OKAY?

Toomi East High School
FIELD DAY


Hydration
Nurse

HOW'D IT GO?
Student Council
SECOND PLACE! WE WERE SO CLOSE...!

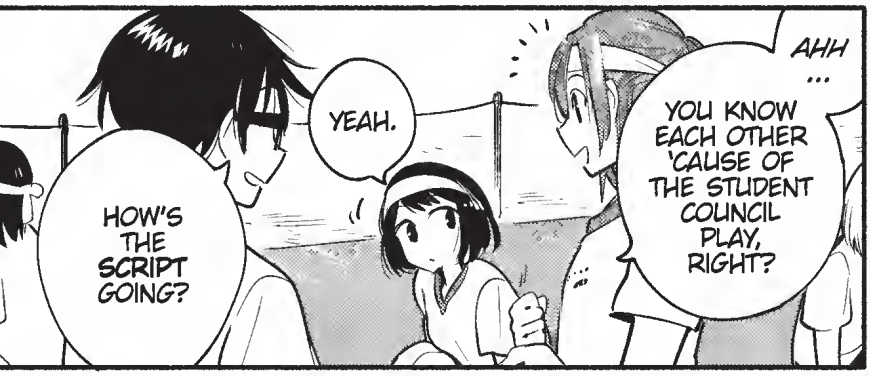

GREAT WORK, GUYS!

WHERE ARE WE AT NOW?
Student Council
HRMM... LOOKS LIKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE SWEDISH RELAY IS NEXT.
WE'VE PRETTY MUCH BEEN RIGHT ON SCHEDULE SO FAR.
SOUNDS GOOD!

I'M DONE WITH THE INTRO.
WE HAD IT AT MINE.
I DIDN'T GET IT AT FIRST.
WAS THE SWEDISH RELAY A THING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?
HUH?
ARE YOU AND HYUUGA-SAN FRIENDS?
YEAH, WE ARE.
WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, TOO.
HEY, AKARI.
GREAT WORK, ACTION COMMITTEE!
I'M GONNA GO BACK TO MY CLASS, TOO.
SURE, NICE WORK.
WELL, MY WORK IS DONE, SO I'M GOING BACK.

KOYOMI, I'M ALL DONE.
WEL-COME BACK.

Year 1, Class 1


HOW'S THE SCRIPT GOING?
YEAH.
AHH...
YOU KNOW EACH OTHER 'CAUSE OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL PLAY, RIGHT?

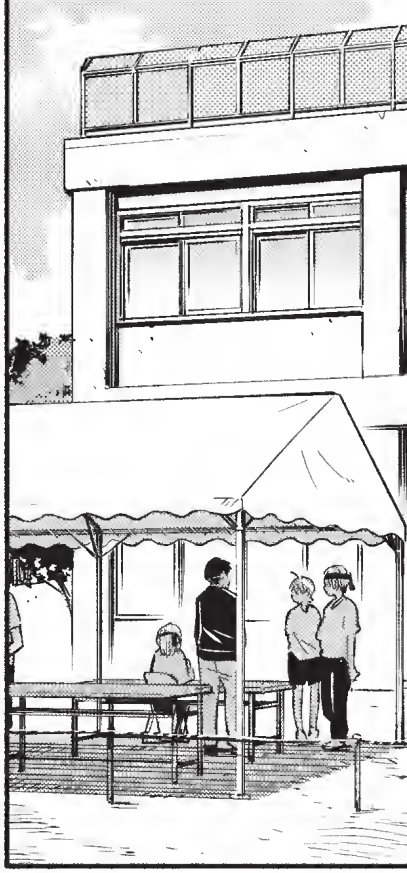
HN?
YO, KANOU-SAN.

OH YEAH?
BUT THERE'S SOME-THING I'M A BIT STUCK ON.
MRNN. IT'S COMING ALONG, I GUESS...

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE YOUR CHARACTER MORE SUPERFICIAL, DOUJIMA-KUN.
WHAT? OUCH!
glare
.....
I'M ALWAYS DOWN FOR ANY IMPROVE-MENTS TO THE GIRL-BOY RATIO!
DROP IN ON THE STUDENT COUNCIL FOR ADVICE ANYTIME!
WHAT KIND OF PERSON DO YOU THINK NANAMI-SENPAI IS, DOUJIMA-KUN?
.....
SPEAKING OF THE CHARACTERS FOR THE PLAY...
HUP!
SHOULDN'T YOU BE ASKING KOITO-SAN THAT?
I TRIED THAT, BUT SHE JUST SAID SHE'S JUST AS SHE SEEMS ON THE SURFACE...

MAYBE THE STUDENT COUNCIL PREZ REALLY IS JUST THE WAY SHE SEEMS?
I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT.
I'M LOOKING FOR SOME KIND OF CONTRAST OR A SURPRISING TRAIT...
I CAN'T MAKE A CHARACTER BASED ON SOMETHING SO BORING!
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S GOT IT TOUGH.
YEAH...
HMM... UNLESS...
MAYBE HER INSCRUTABILITY CAN BE WHAT MAKES THE CHARACTER...?
KOYOMI'S BEEN GETTING LIKE THIS AN AWFUL LOT LATELY...
YOU'RE BETTER OFF LEAVING HER TO IT.
mutter mutter
KANOU-SAN? HELLOOO?
?

SURE, GO ON AND TAKE A BREAK.
OKAY, WE'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU.



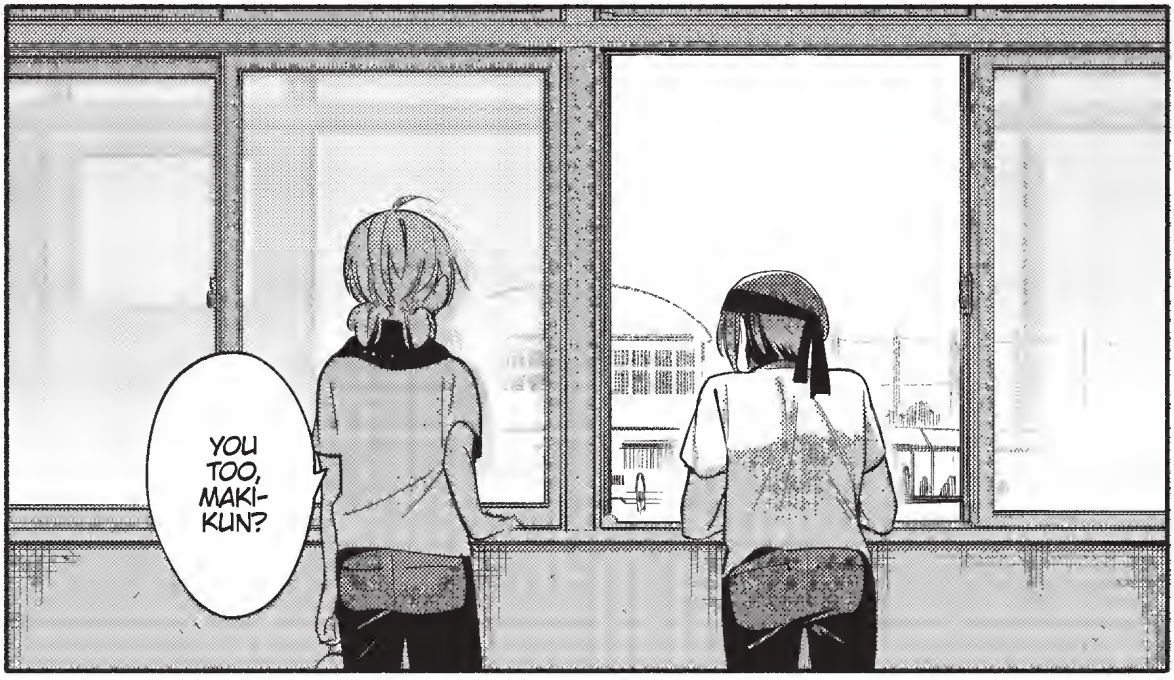
TRUE, I THINK THEY'RE PARTICIPATING IN A LOT OF MATCHES.
ALTHOUGH, I DO THINK OUR SENPAI SEEM EVEN BUSIER.

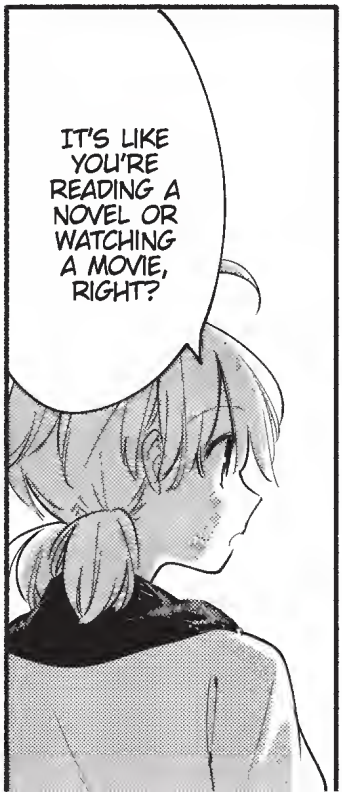
FEELS LIKE WE'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND NONSTOP ALL DAY.
PHEW ...
WE'RE FINALLY HALFWAY DONE, HUH?

YOU KNOW...
I KEEP TELLING YOU THIS, BUT...
AREN'T YOU LONELY NOT BEING ABLE TO SPEND TIME WITH NANAMI-SENPAI?
Pbbt!
YEAH, SURE.
IF YOU WEREN'T, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN DOING THAT IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM.
NO, IT'S TRUE!
I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH NANAMI-SENPAI, GOT IT?
CRINK
I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH HER.
BE-CAUSE ...

I NEVER FALL IN LOVE WITH ANYONE.
.....
YOU MEAN IT?
THEN YOU'RE JUST LIKE ME.

REALLY?

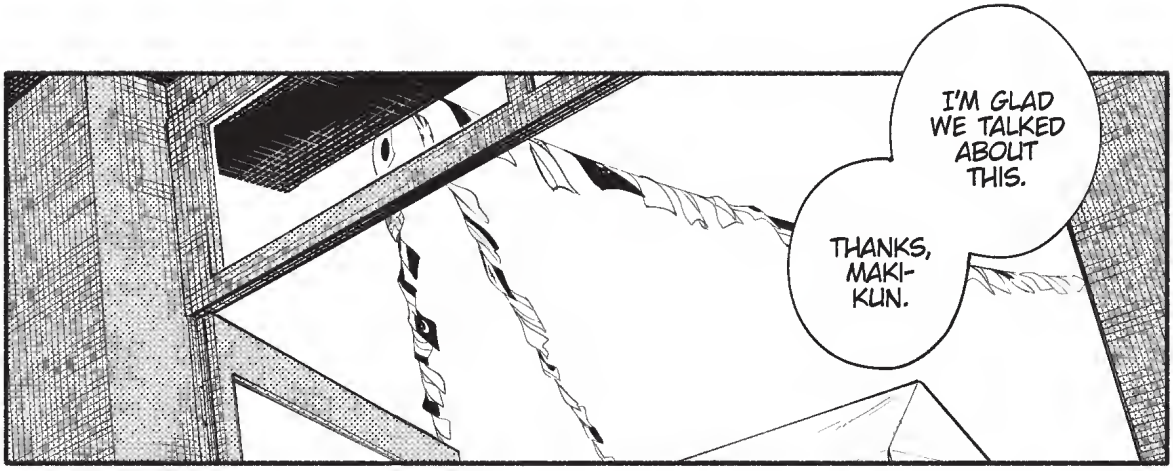

YOU TOO, MAKI-KUN?

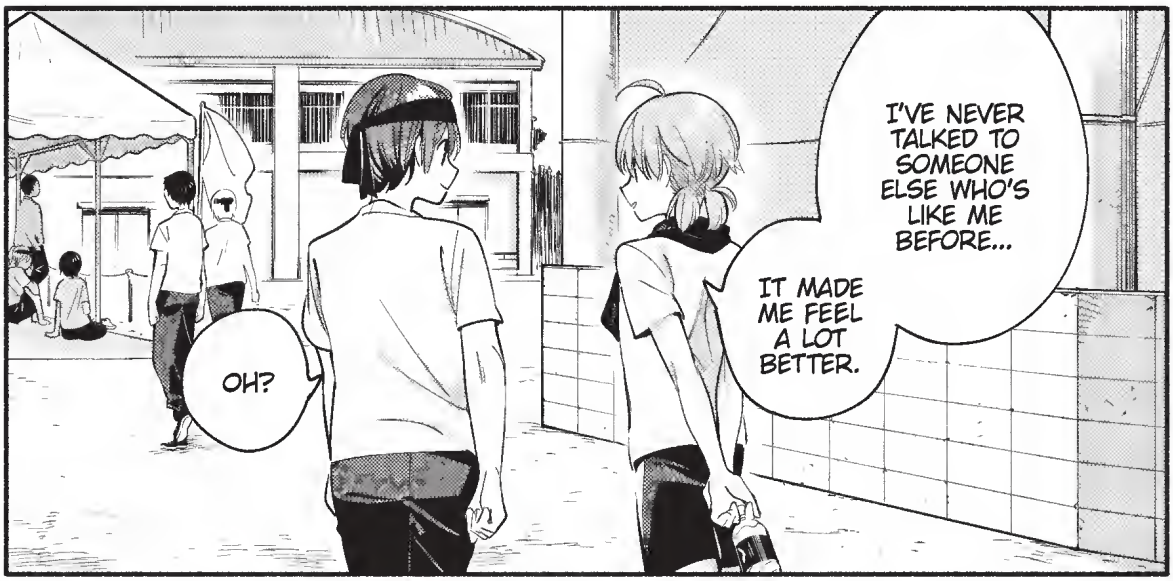

IT'S LIKE YOU'RE READING A NOVEL OR WATCHING A MOVIE, RIGHT?

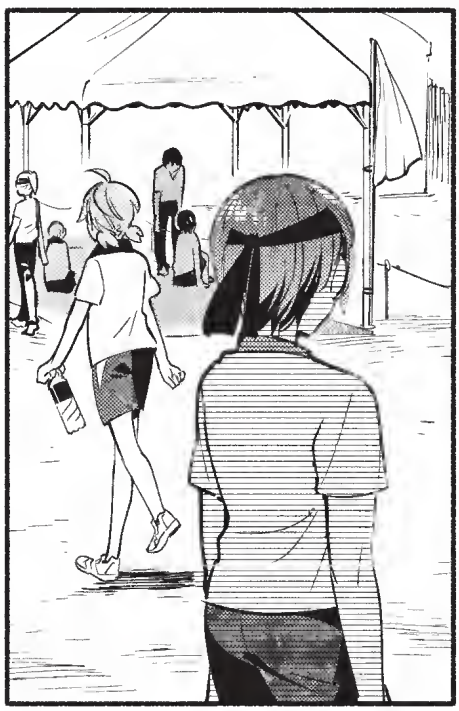
I'VE NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE THAT MYSELF.
SO I GUESS I SHOULD UNDER-STAND IT IN *THEORY*, BUT...
WHEN I SEE OTHER PEOPLE IN LOVE, I THINK IT'S A GOOD THING...

HAVEN'T YOU EVER FELT *LONELY* BECAUSE OF THAT?
YEAH, *EXACTLY.*
LIKE IT'S PART OF A DIFFERENT WORLD.
NOT REALLY.
I'M PERFECTLY CONTENT JUST WATCHING FROM A DISTANCE LIKE THIS.
YOU ARE, HUH ...?
ARE *YOU* LONELY, KOITO-SAN?
I WAS FOR A WHILE.
I THOUGHT I WAS **WEIRD** FOR NOT FALLING IN LOVE...
I JUST WANTED TO BE LIKE **EVERYONE ELSE.**

NANAMI-SENPAI...
SHE TOLD ME THAT I'M FINE THE WAY I AM.
BUT NOT ANY-MORE?
I DON'T THINK I'M LONELY. NOT NOW.
SINCE SHE SAID THAT...
SHE SAYS SHE LOVES ME, EVEN IF I CAN'T SAY "I LOVE YOU" IN RETURN.


I'M GLAD WE TALKED ABOUT THIS.
THANKS, MAKI-KUN.

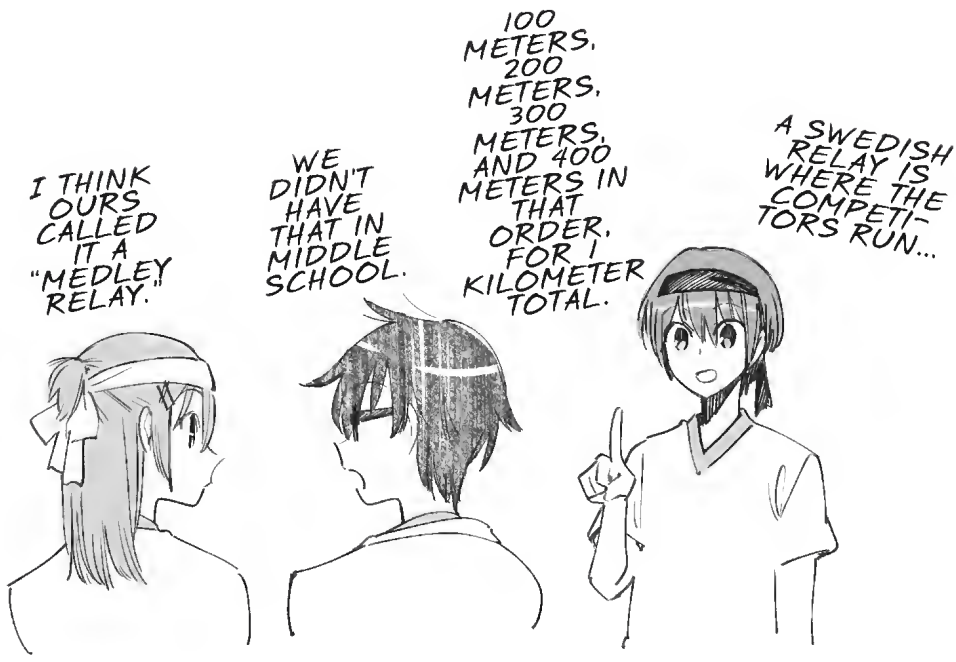

I'VE NEVER TALKED TO SOMEONE ELSE WHO'S LIKE ME BEFORE...
IT MADE ME FEEL A LOT BETTER.
OH?



YEAH.
I WON'T WORRY ABOUT TRYING TO FALL IN LOVE ANY-MORE.

I DON'T THINK WE'RE AS ALIKE AS SHE THINKS.
THAT FACE SHE MADE BEFORE...
THAT'S NOT A FACE SOMEONE WHO ISN'T LONELY WOULD MAKE.
YUU!

HER "REWARD"...
A KISS FROM ME...
HUH?


I THINK OURS CALLED IT A "MEDLEY RELAY."
WE DIDN'T HAVE THAT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
100 METERS, 200 METERS, 300 METERS, AND 400 METERS IN THAT ORDER, FOR 1 KILOMETER TOTAL.
A SWEDISH RELAY IS WHERE THE COMPETI-TORS RUN...

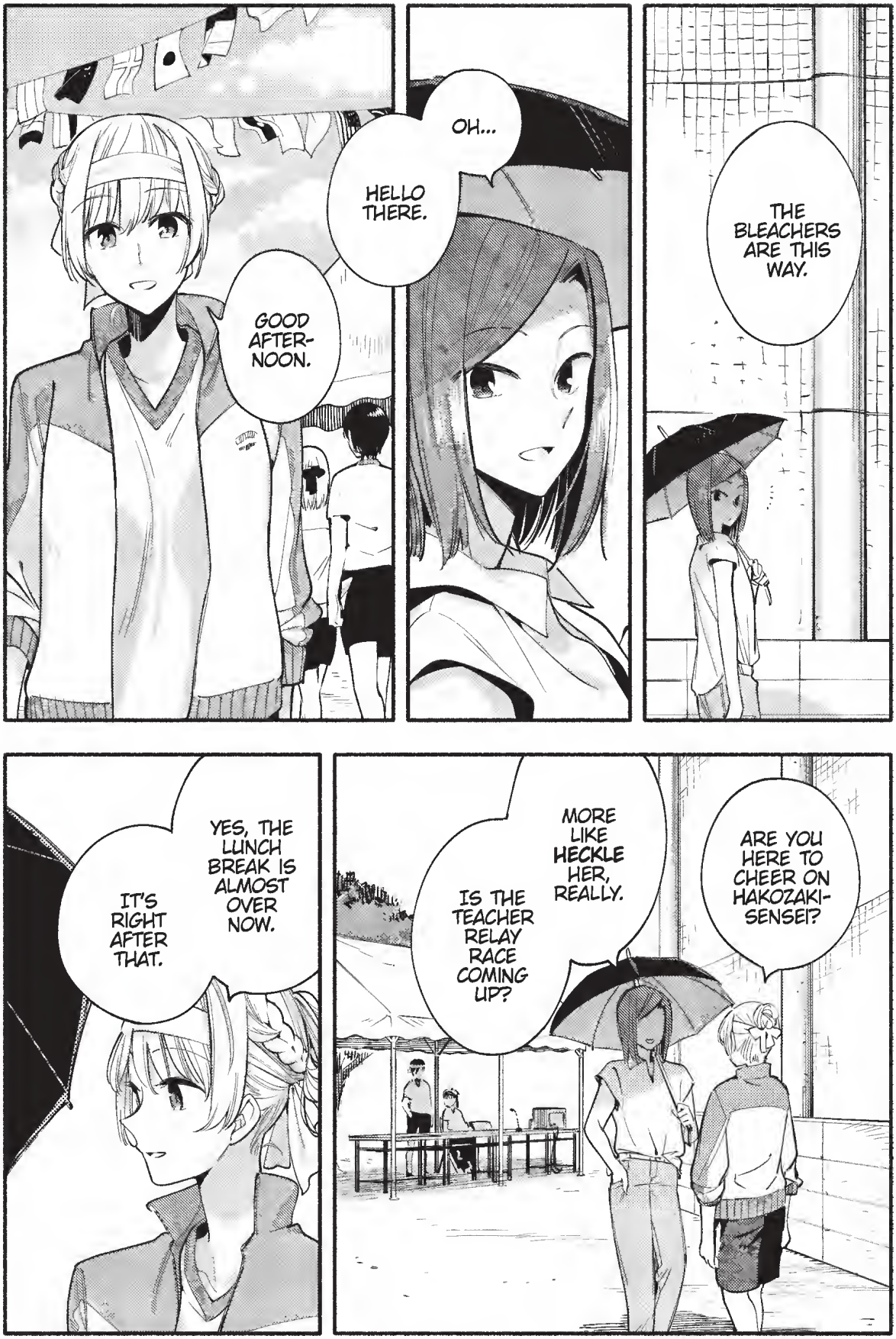
Bloom Into You

16

I Cannot Hear the Signal Gun

EPISODE SIXTEEN

chatter
chatter
Toomi East High School
Field Day


GOOD AFTER-NOON.
OH...
HELLO THERE.
THE BLEACHERS ARE THIS WAY.
YES, THE LUNCH BREAK IS ALMOST OVER NOW.
IT'S RIGHT AFTER THAT.
IS THE TEACHER RELAY RACE COMING UP?
MORE LIKE HECKLE HER, REALLY.
ARE YOU HERE TO CHEER ON HAKOZAKI-SENSEI?

IS THAT WHAT YOU CAME HERE TO SEE...?
OH, DON'T TELL HER I CAME, THOUGH.
SHE SEEMS TO HAVE A LOT OF TIME ON HER HANDS...
MAYBE I'LL GET TO SEE HER TRIP?
I CAN'T WAIT!
RIKO'S SUCH A TERRIBLE ATHLETE.
OKAY! GOOD LUCK!
ENJOY THE DAY.
WELL, I HAVE TO GO GET READY FOR THE CLUB RELAY, MYSELF.

IS THAT THE GIRL SHE LIKES, I WONDER?
SHE'S PRETTY, BUT...
NOW, I WONDER WHERE RIKO IS...
SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE MIGHT BREAK SOME HEARTS.
Heh.

STUDENT COUNCIL! LET'S WIN THIS THING!
GOOD LUCK, LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT!

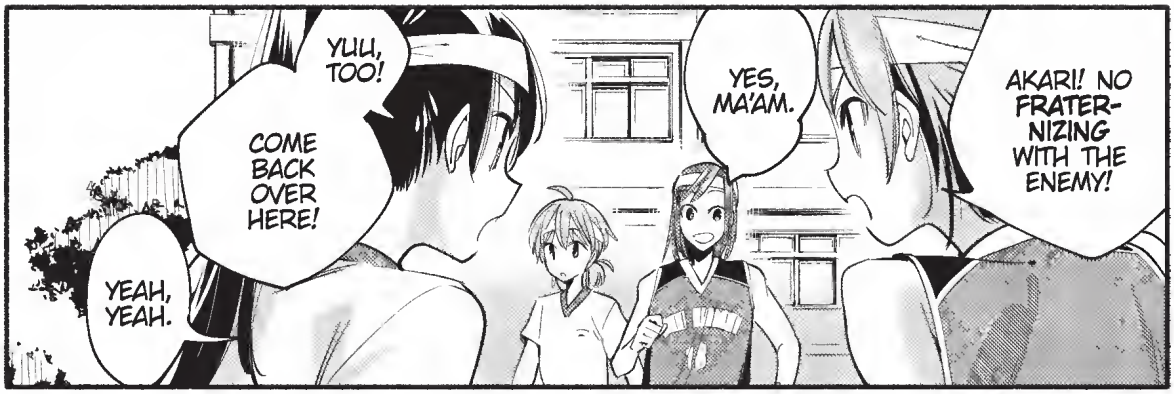
WOO!!
WOO...?
Woo!

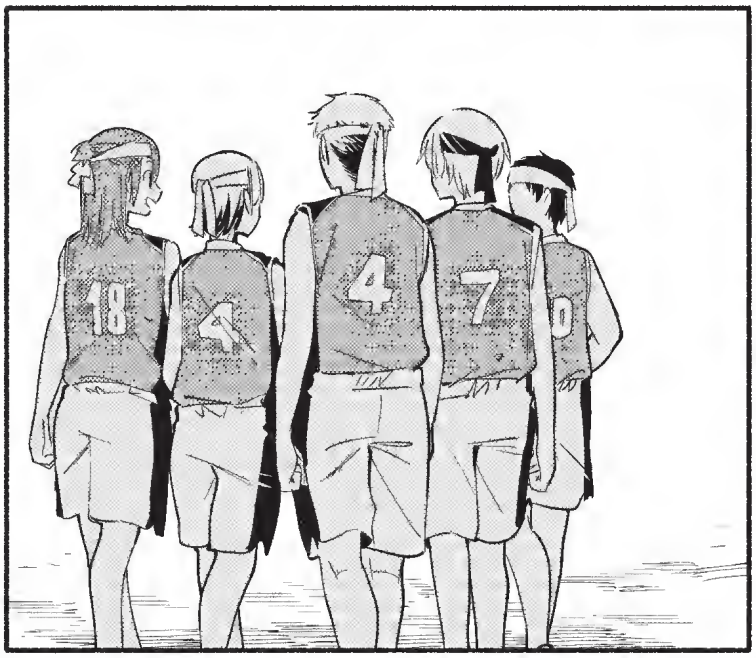
I'LL DO WHAT I MUST, AND NO MORE.
I DON'T SEE HOW WE'RE GOING TO BEAT ACTUAL SPORTS CLUB MEMBERS...

YOU TWO!
HOW ARE WE GOING TO WIN IF YOUR HEARTS AREN'T IN IT?!
ESPECIALLY YOU FORMER SOFTBALL CLUB MEMBER!

CLOP
SOUNDS LIKE THE STUDENT COUNCIL DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE.
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOUR FACE WHEN WE BEAT YOU, TOUKO!
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS, SERIZAWA!
TOHMI HIGASHI
4
WE'VE PRACTICED LONG AND HARD FOR THIS DAY, YOU KNOW.
I DON'T THINK IT'LL BE THAT EASY FOR YOU!
WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT ...?
OUR CAPTAIN'S A REALLY COMPETITIVE PERSON, SO--
AKARI!

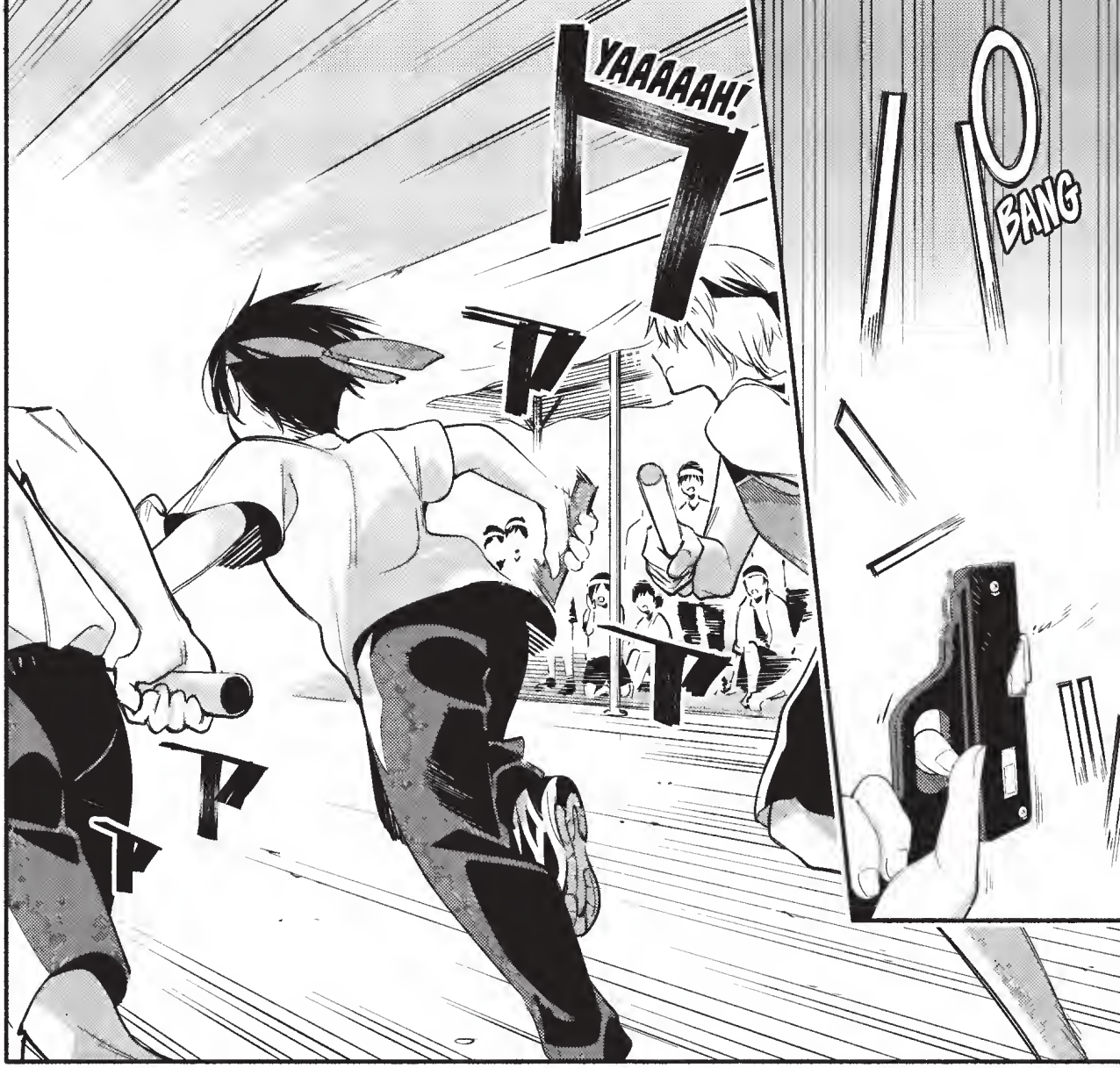
WHICH NUMBER RUNNER ARE YOU, AKARI?
I'M THIRD.
REALLY? SAME HERE.
NO WAY!
TOMA HIGASHI
18
APPARENTLY, THEY COMPETE A LOT IN GYM CLASS AND STUFF.
IT KINDA LOOKS LIKE THEY... GET ALONG WELL.
?
AHH.
THAT ONE SENPAI'S RUNNING FIFTH, HUH?
I WANTED TO BE THE ONE TO PASS HIM THE BATON!
BUT YOU KNOW...
I REALLY WANTED TO RUN FOURTH...
TOMA HIGASHI
4


AKARI! NO FRATER-NIZING WITH THE ENEMY!
YES, MA'AM.
YUU, TOO!
COME BACK OVER HERE!
YEAH, YEAH.



SEE YOU LATER, YUU.
BYE!

WE CAN'T LOSE TO THE LIKES OF *THEM!*


YAAAAAH!
BANG

WUUH!

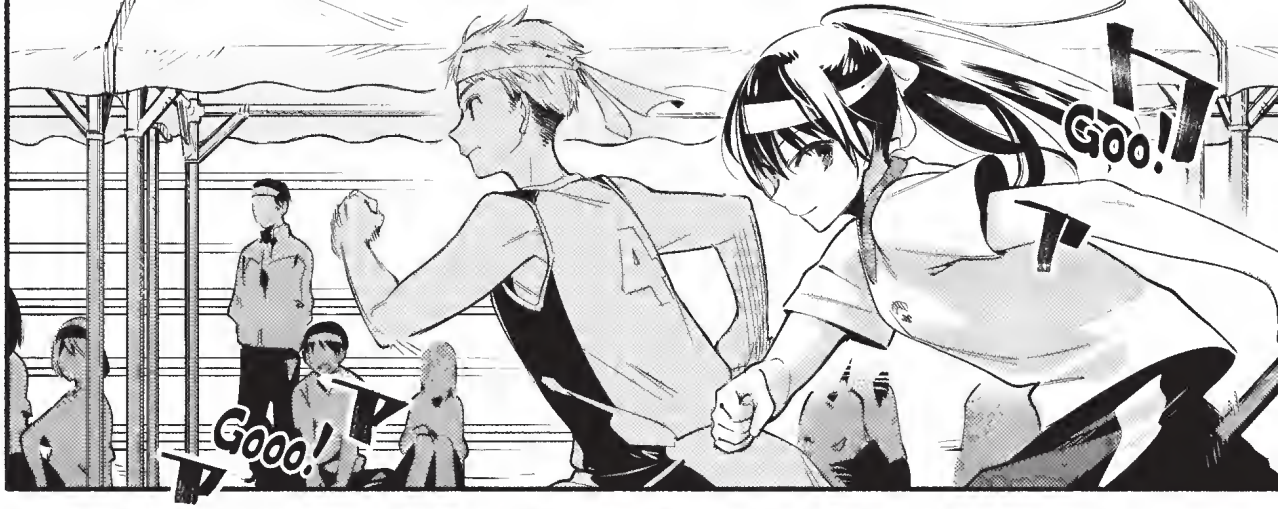
RAAAH!!

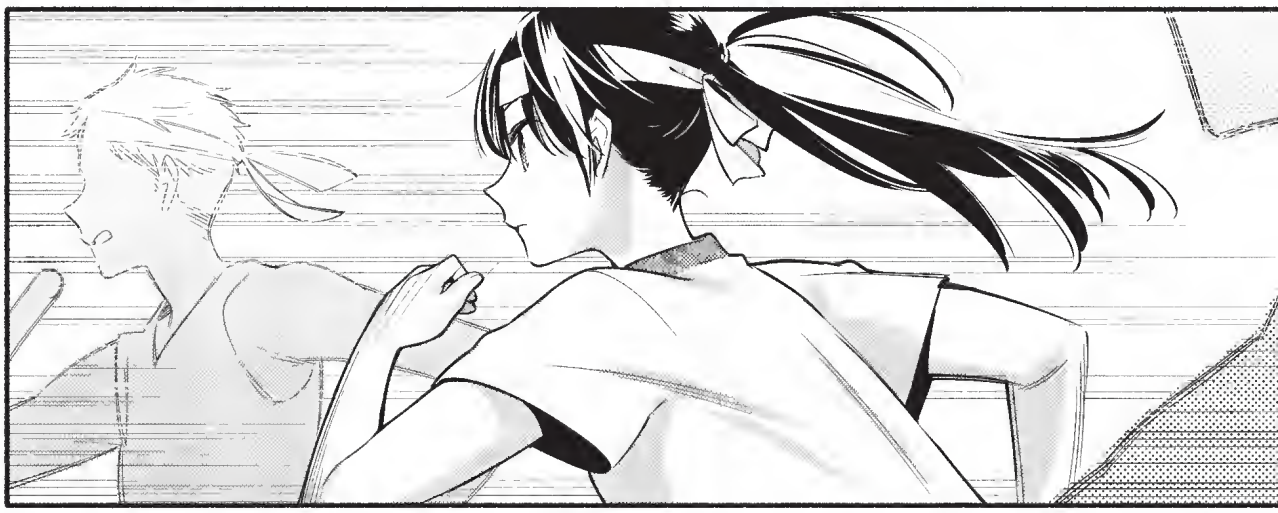
Woooo!
Yeah!
PLAP
DASH

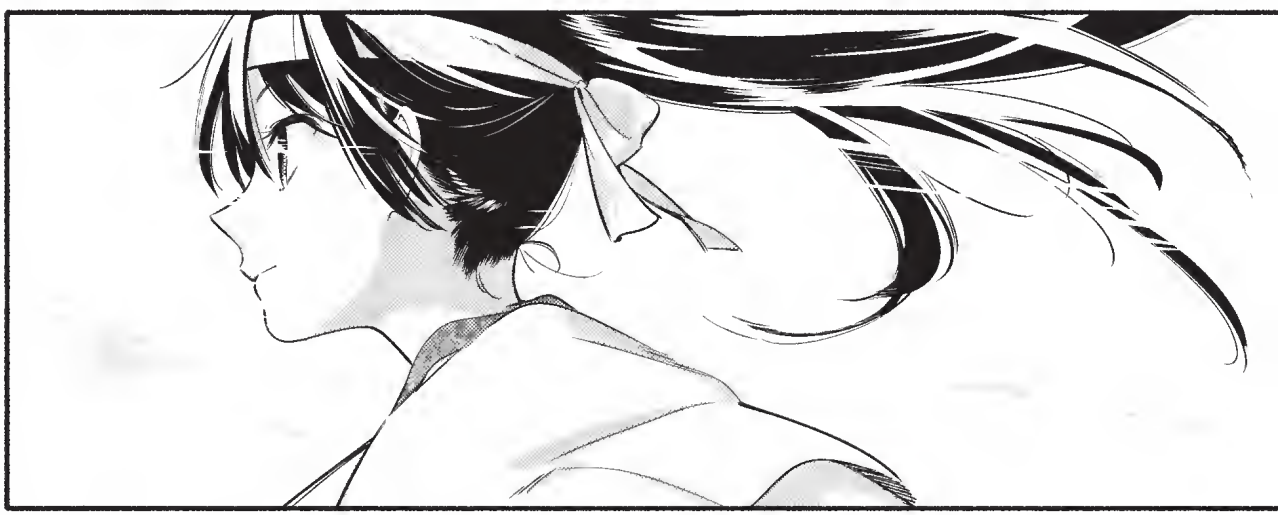
Yaaaah!
HIGASHI
8
DASH
grab

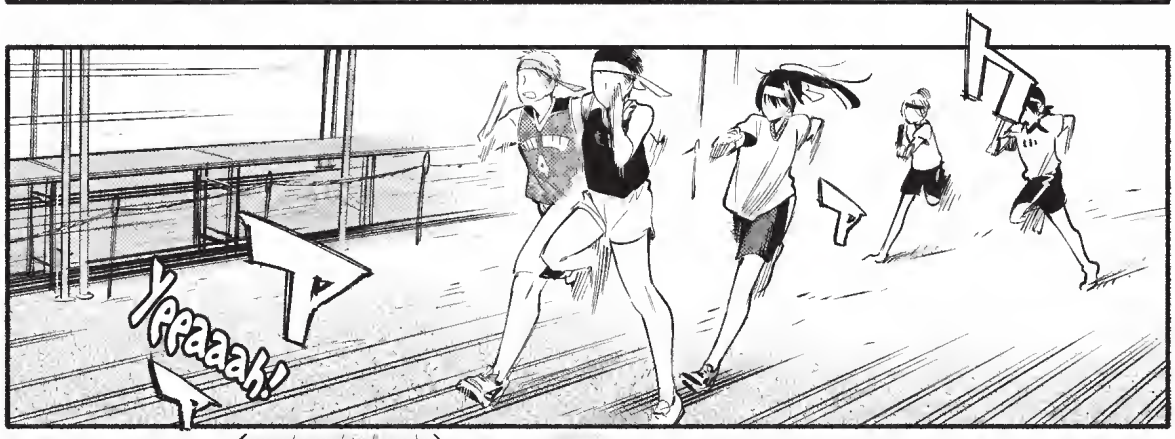
YOU CAN DO IT, SEN-PAAAI!!
Woooo!
LEAVE 'EM IN THE DUST!
Toomi East

ALMOST THERE!
GOOO!

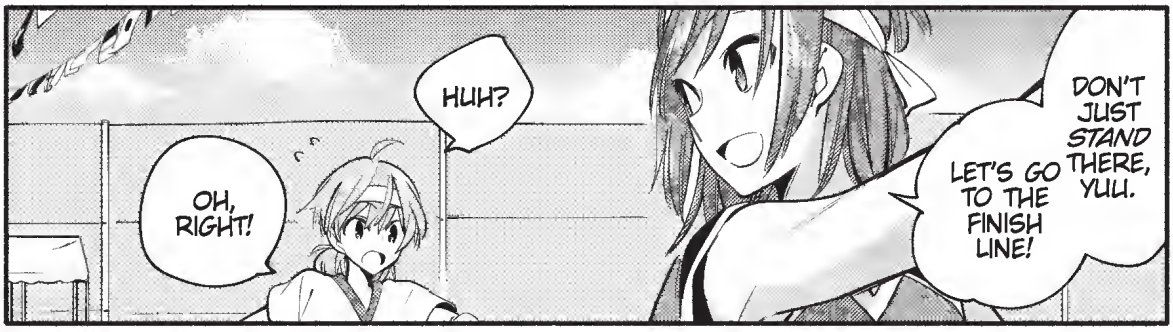

Goo!
Gooo!






Ppaaah!

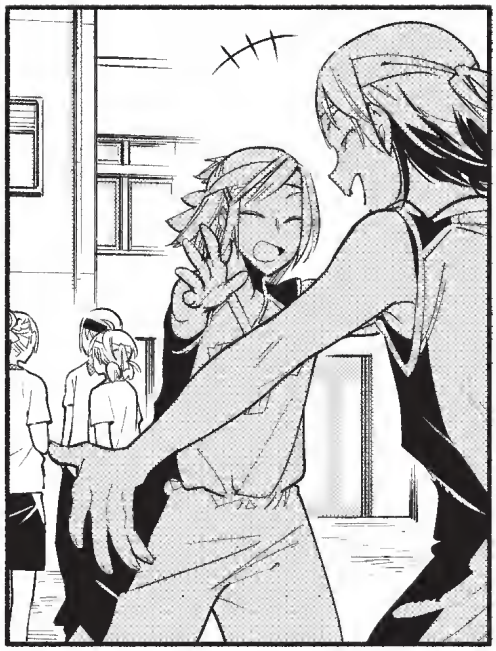
WOOOO!
WE DID IT! BASKET-BALL CLUB WINS!
AH!
TOHMIGASHI


DON'T JUST STAND THERE, YUU.
LET'S GO TO THE FINISH LINE!
HUH?
OH, RIGHT!

YAMMER
YAMMER

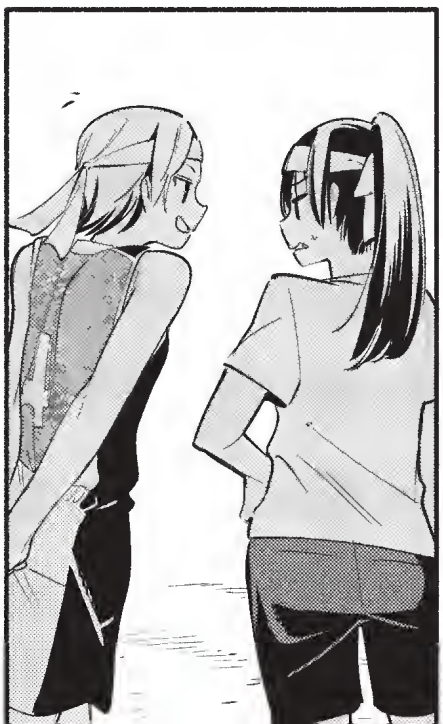
OH...
SO WE LOST...

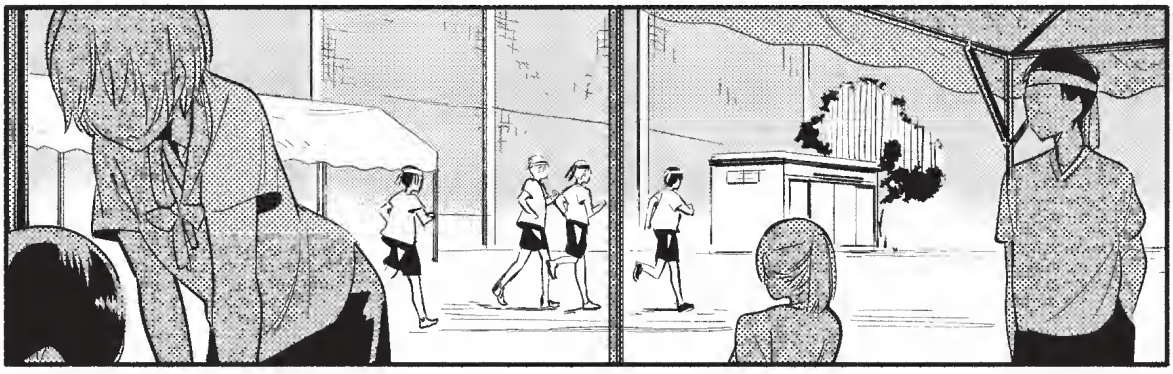
I'M SO MAAAD!

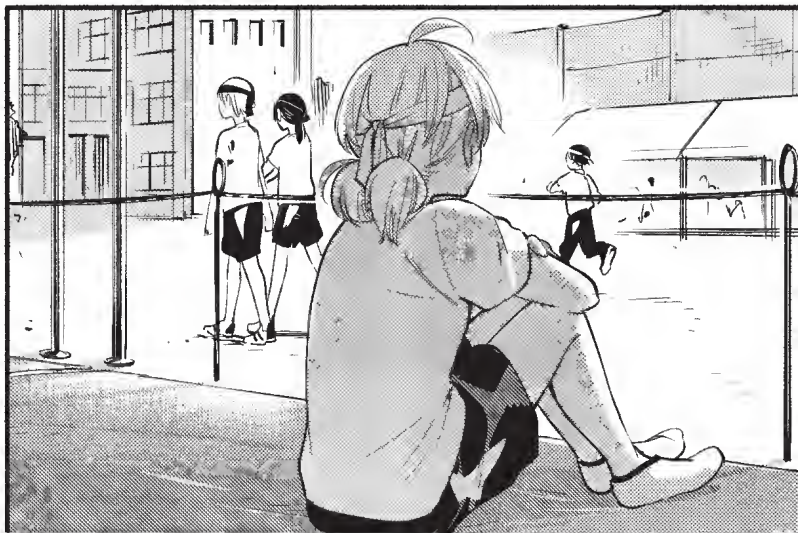


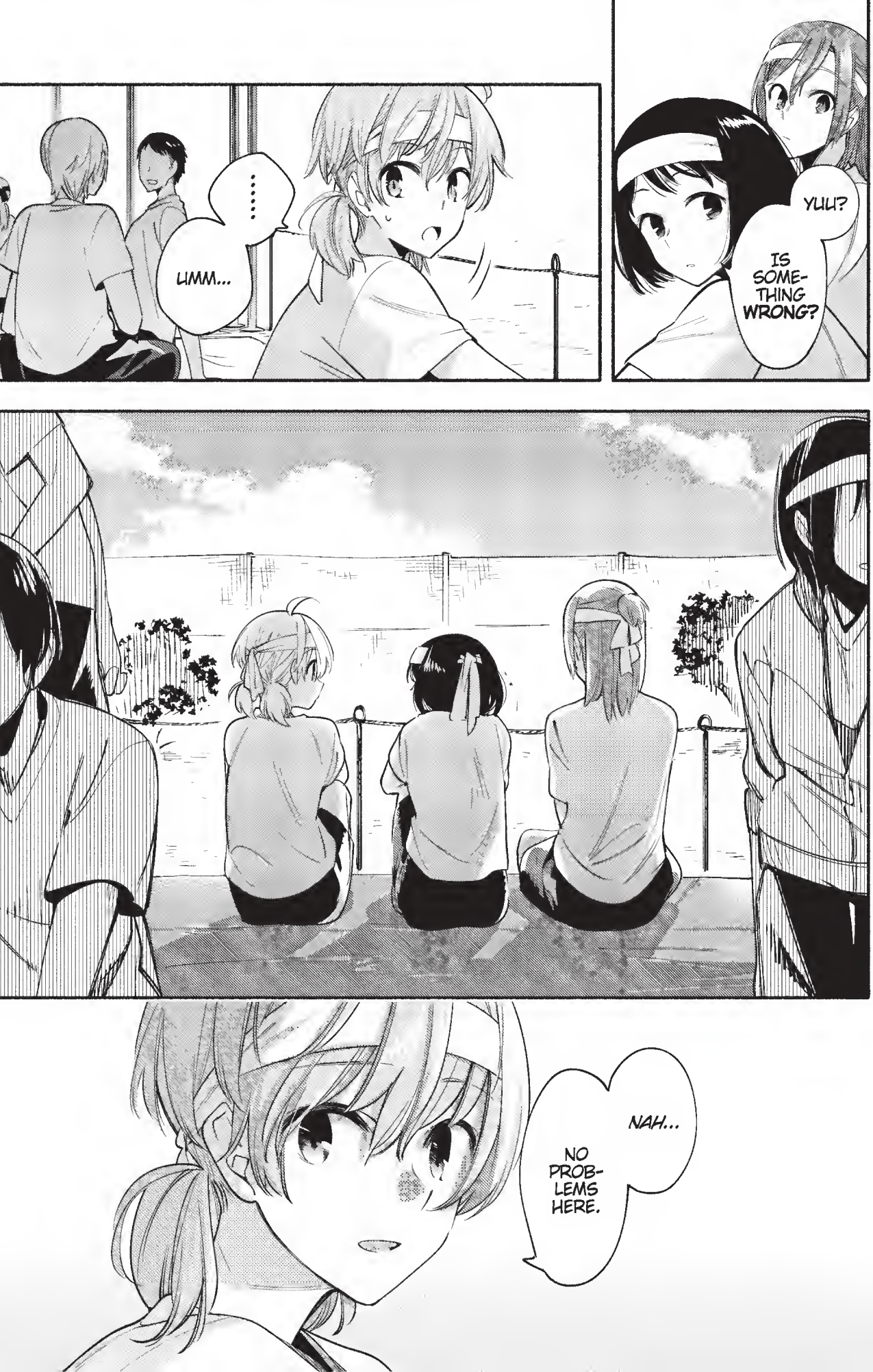
I THINK WE PERFORMED QUITE WELL.
FOR THIS GROUP, COMING IN THIRD IS PRETTY DARN GOOD.
GOOD GAME, GUYS.
LUGH...
YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU ALL WORKED SO HARD...

YOU TOO, YUU. GOOD GAME.
OH.
YEAH, GOOD GAME.








YUU?
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
UMM...
.....
NAH...
NO PROB-LEMS HERE.

C'MON, YUU!
HURRY UUUP!
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE

I GUESS I DID SAY ONCE THE FIELD DAY IS OVER, BUT...
THIS SEEMS A LITTLE TOO SUDDEN.

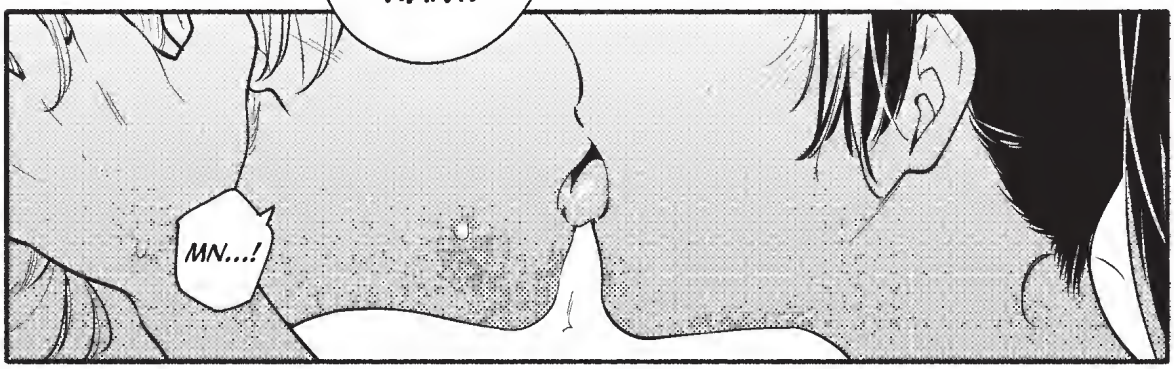
WHAT ARE YOU ALL EXCITED FOR...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? MY REWARD!
I HELD OUT ALL THE WAY 'TIL THE END OF THE FIELD DAY, DIDN'T I?

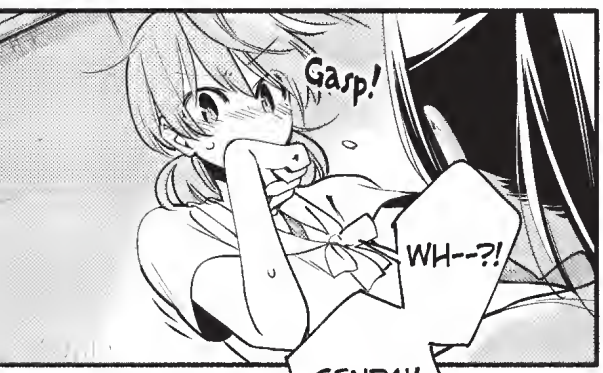
DON'T KEEP ME WAITING. C'MON!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.
DO AS YOU LIKE.
NO, NO.
IT'S NOT ABOUT ME DOING IT THIS TIME...
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DO IT, REMEMBER?
AHH, RIGHT...

I CAN'T DO IT.
WHY NOT?
I DON'T KNOW...
BUT I JUST KNOW THAT THIS IS A LINE I SHOULDN'T CROSS.

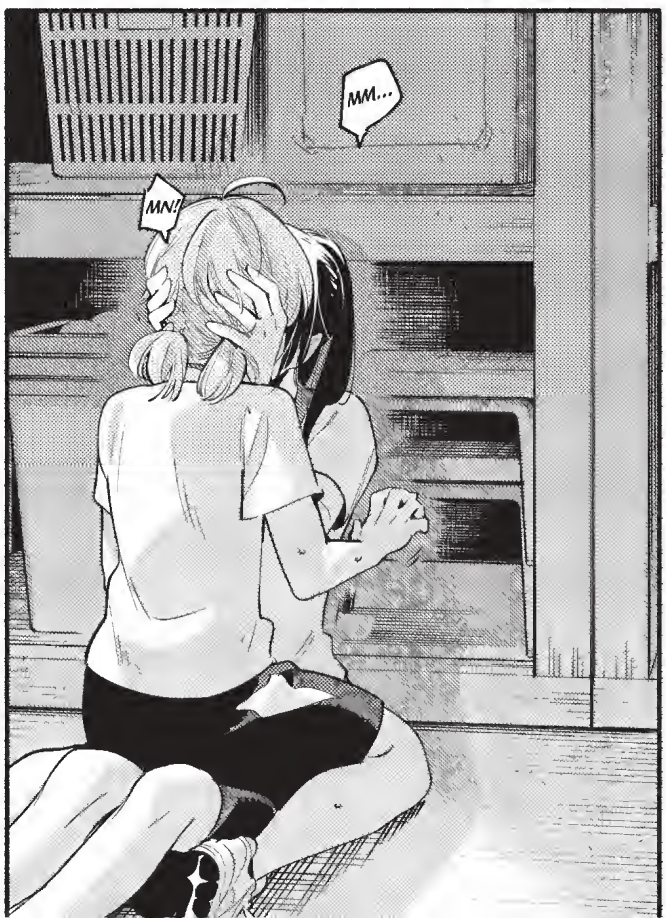
YOU KNOW...
YUU...?
YOU WERE RIGHT. IT IS DIFFERENT IF I DO IT.
WHAAT?!
I MEAN, IF I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH YOU, BUT KISS YOU ANYWAY...
I FEEL LIKE THAT'S WRONG...
BUT YOU PROM-ISED!
JEEZ... I SUPPOSE THIS IS TYPICAL YUU, THOUGH.
BUT SINCE YOU BROKE YOUR WORD...
IN EXCHANGE ...

I'M GOING TO DO WHAT I WANT.

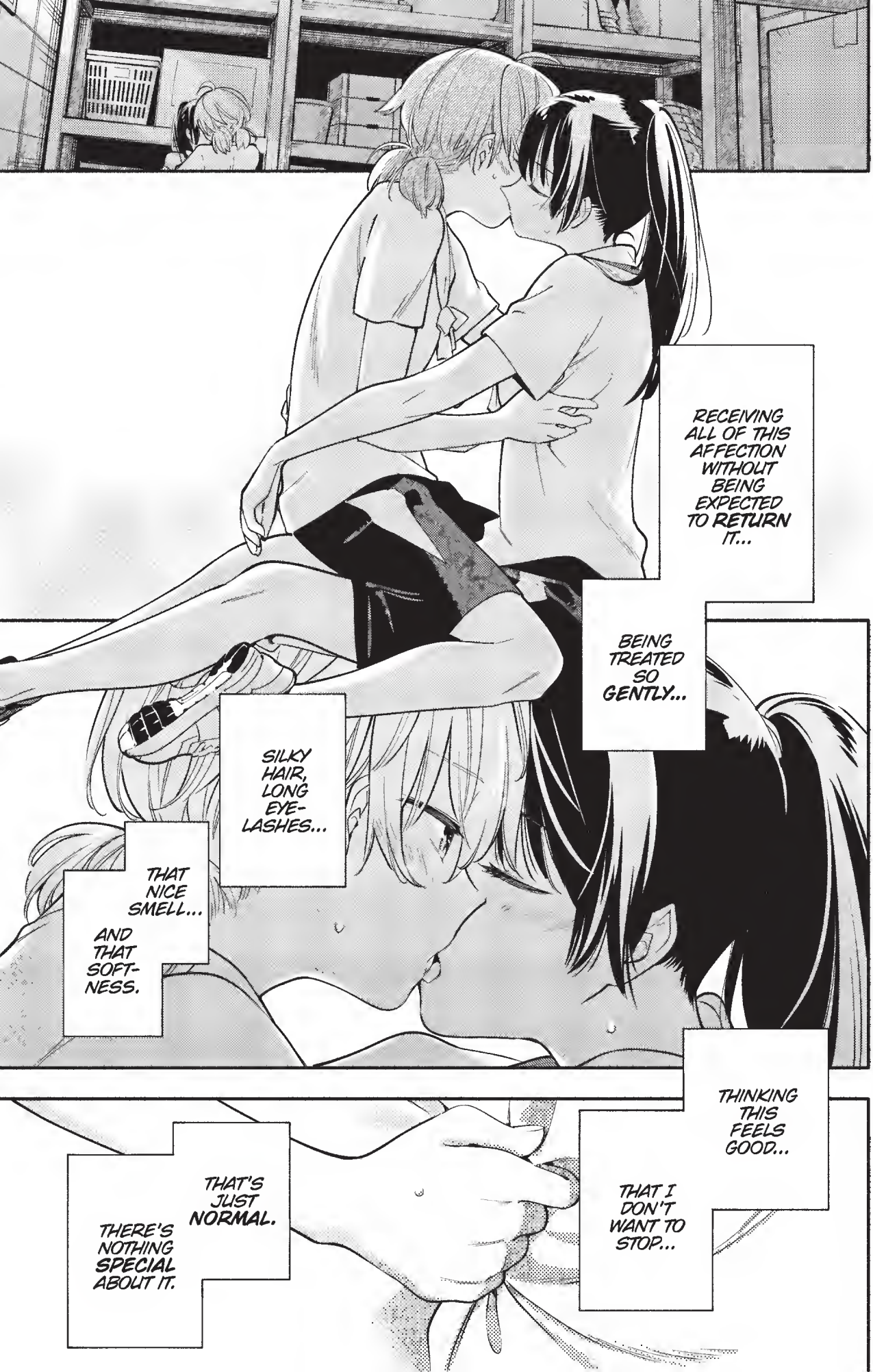

MN...!


Gasp!
WH--?!

SENPAI!
Huff!


MM...
MN!

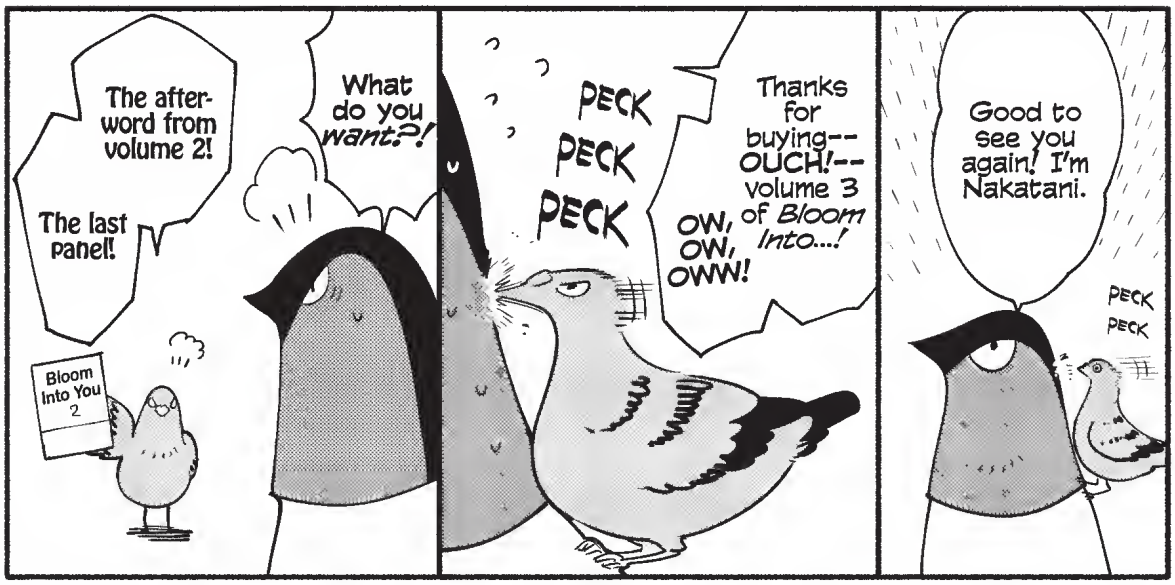
I--I'M SO SORRY!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT...
I WON'T--
NO...
I...
I DON'T MIND.
IN FACT...
IF I HAD TO CHOOSE...
UM... I'D SAY IT FEELS GOOD.
YOU THINK IT FEELS...
GOOD?
OH, YUU.

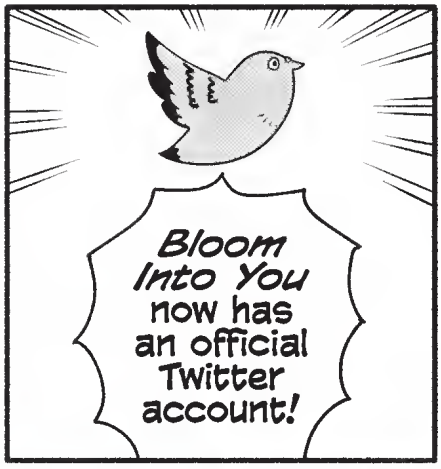

RECEIVING ALL OF THIS AFFECTION WITHOUT BEING EXPECTED TO RETURN IT...
BEING TREATED SO GENTLY...
SILKY HAIR, LONG EYE-LASHES...
THAT NICE SMELL...
AND THAT SOFT-NESS.
THINKING THIS FEELS GOOD...
THAT I DON'T WANT TO STOP...
THAT'S JUST NORMAL.
THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT IT.

I CAN HEAR A HEARTBEAT.
IT MUST BE SENPAI'S...
NOT MINE.
MY HEART WOULD NEVER BEAT THIS FAST.

Bloom Into You Vol. 4
Coming Soon

AFTERWORD





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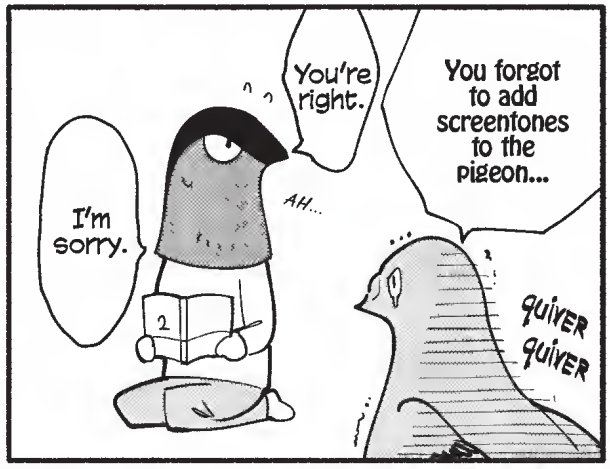
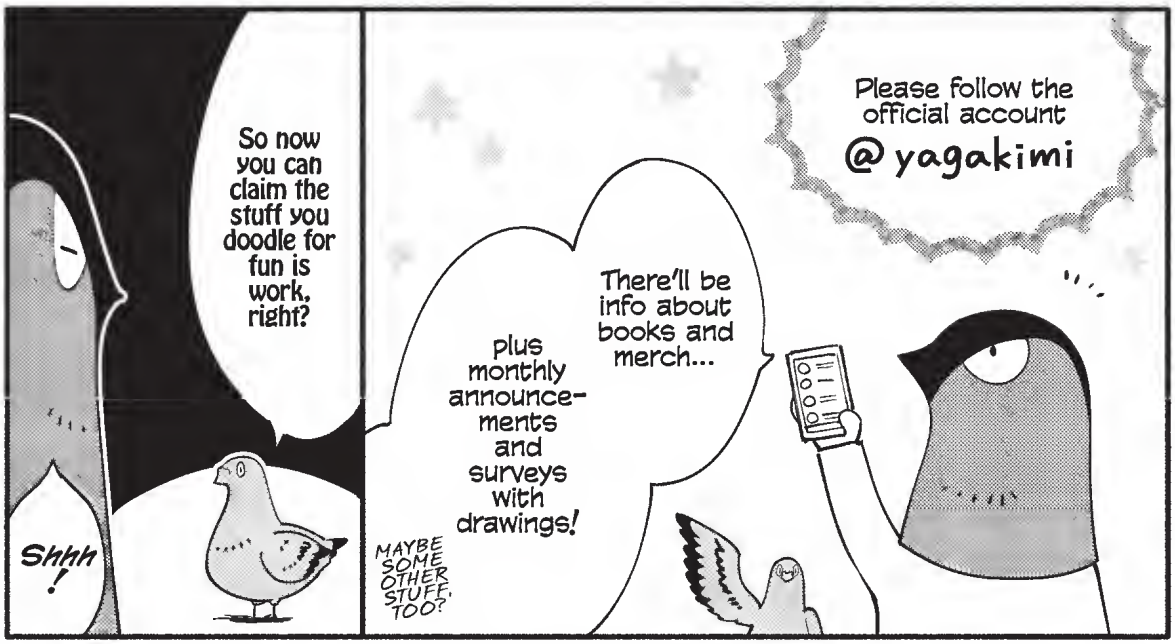
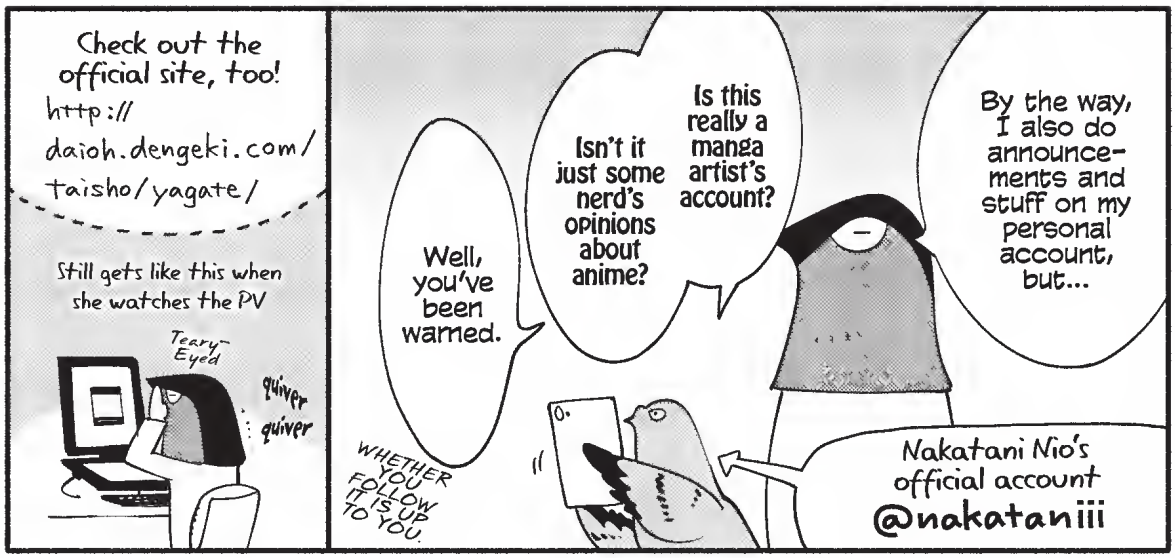






Yuri Anthology

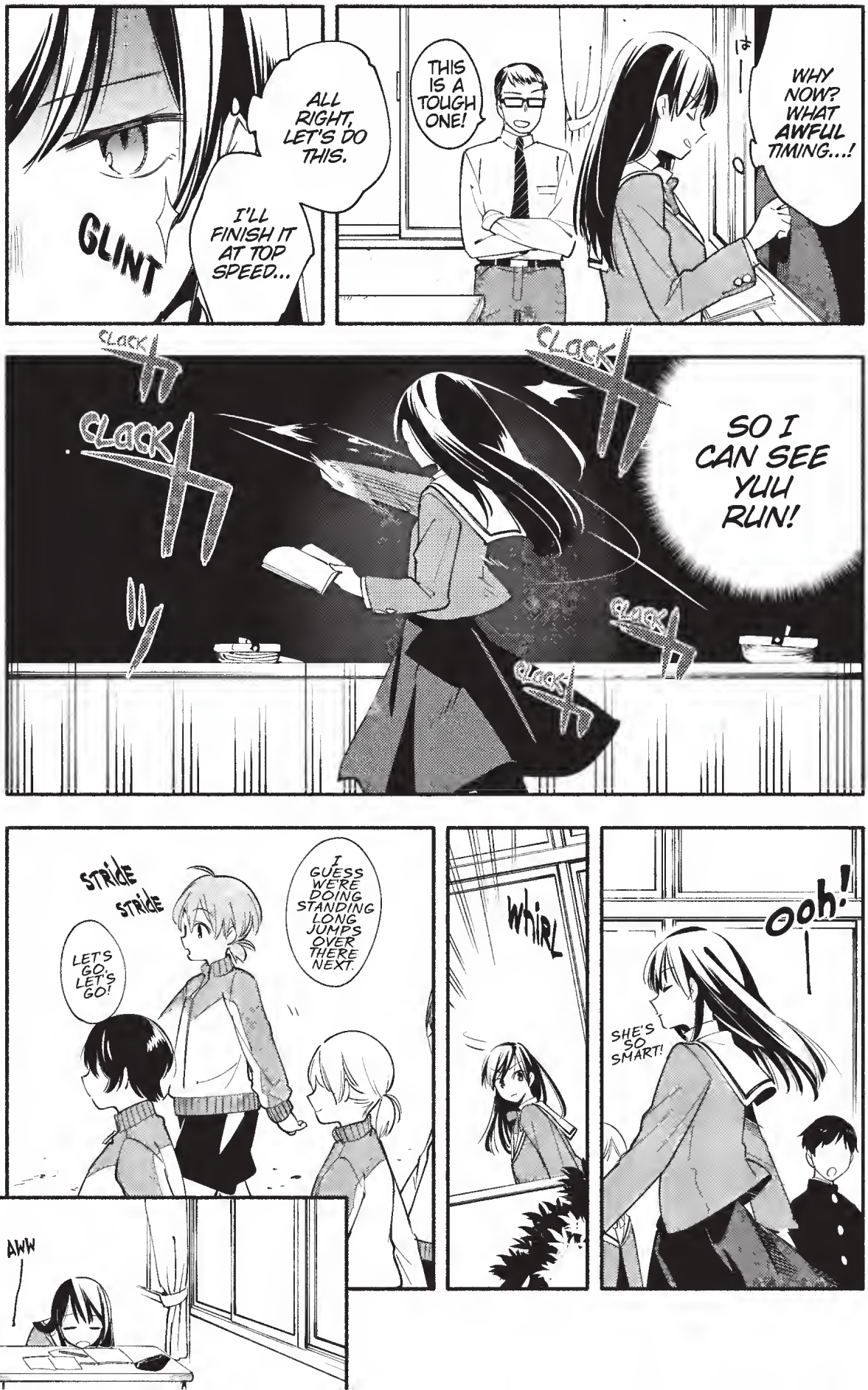
Thank you very much!

My editor Tatsuya Kusunoki-san.

Everyone else involved in the making of this book.

And thanks to all of you for reading this!

THE FIRST-YEARS ...
HAVE A PHYS ED TEST, HUH?
OH! IT'S YUU!
SHE USED TO PLAY SPORTS, SO MAYBE SHE'S FAST...
Fidget fidget
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S RUNNING SOON.
ALL RIGHT, FOR THIS NEXT PROB-LEM...
Geh!
NANAMI.
COME UP AND SOLVE THIS, PLEASE.


GLINT
ALL RIGHT, LET'S DO THIS.
I'LL FINISH IT AT TOP SPEED...
THIS IS A TOUGH ONE!
WHY NOW? WHAT AWFUL TIMING...!
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
SO I CAN SEE YUU RUN!
STRIDE
STRIDE
LET'S GO, LET'S GO!
I GUESS WE'RE DOING STANDING LONG JUMPS OVER THERE NEXT.
WHIRL
Ooh!
SHE'S SO SMART!
AWW

Order of Height

IN MAY, EVERYONE STARTS WEARING SUMMER UNIFORMS.
Until Then
EITHER ONE IS FINE
STARE
IS SOME-THING THE MATTER, SAYAKA?
TOUKO ...
DID YOU GROW?
WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING WHILE YOU SAY THAT?!
IN THE SUMMER UNIFORM, YOUR BODY LINE...
AFTER SCHOOL ...
STARE
AH, SENPAI, YOU'RE WEARING THE SUMMER UNIFORM NOW.
.....
WH-WHAT IS IT?
I WAS JUST THINKING IT'S RE-FRESHING TO SEE YOUR BARE LEGS...
SINCE YOU WEAR TIGHTS ALL WINTER.
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU LIKE, HUH?
NEW INFOR-MATION ...!
BESIDES, IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT BUST SIZE...
AREN'T SAYAKA'S BIGGER ANYWAY?

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

Bloom into You

story and art by **NAKATANI NIO** **VOLUME 3**

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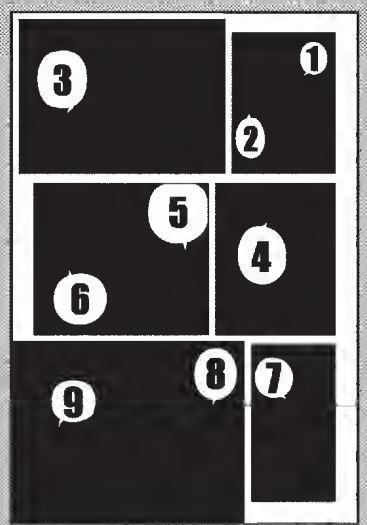
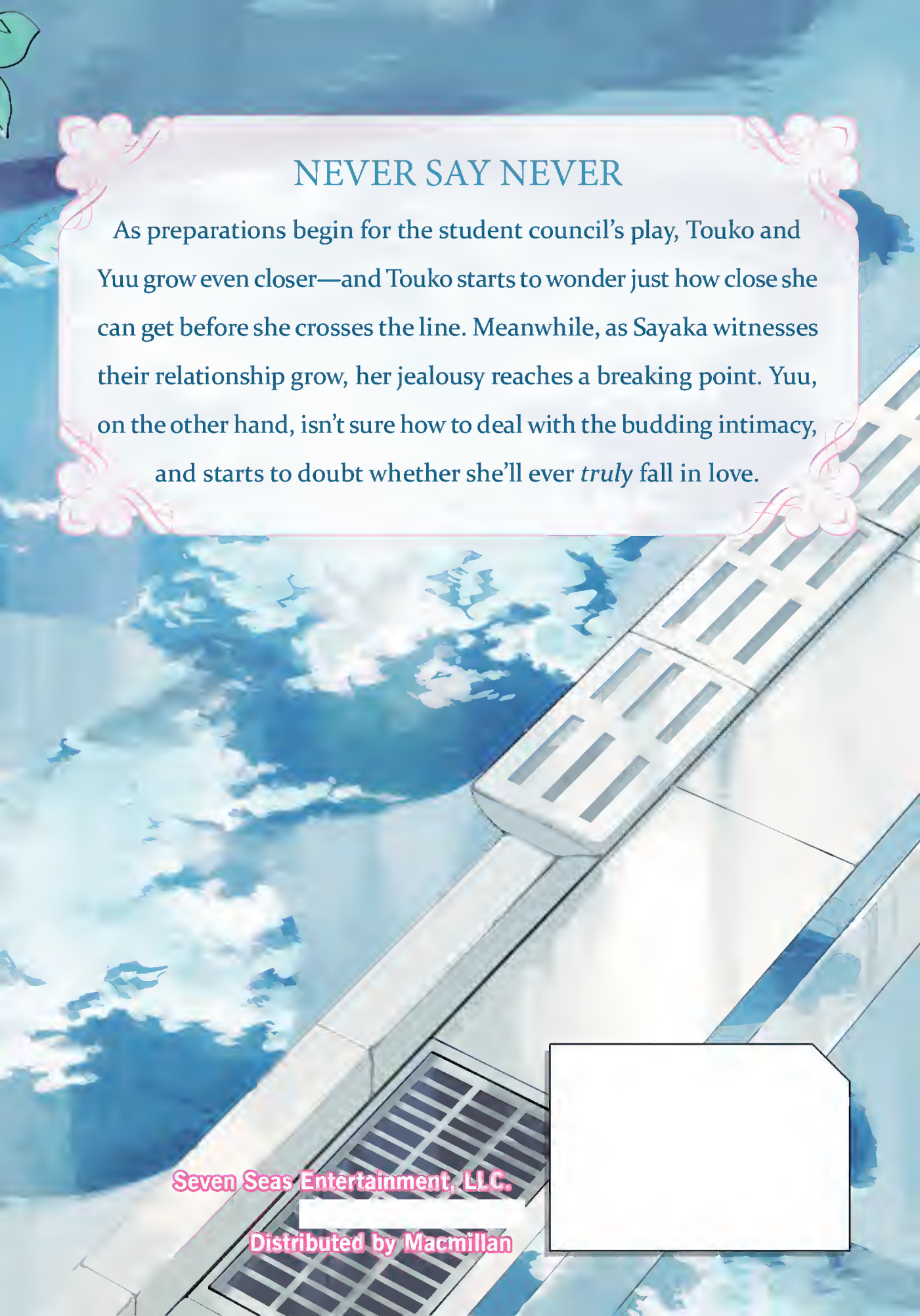
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!





NEVER SAY NEVER

As preparations begin for the student council's play, Touko and Yuu grow even closer—and Touko starts to wonder just how close she can get before she crosses the line. Meanwhile, as Sayaka witnesses their relationship grow, her jealousy reaches a breaking point. Yuu, on the other hand, isn't sure how to deal with the budding intimacy, and starts to doubt whether she'll ever *truly* fall in love.

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